佐武と市捕物控 12

―屏風の女―

石森章太郎

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

■佐平次の死後、みどりと夫婦になり、岡っ引きとなった佐武。下っ引きの銀平と、豚松を引きつれ、市やんの力を借り、新しい事件の解決に向かう。

■生きていくには悲しすぎる世の中で、それでもなお幸せを求めようとあがく人々を石森章太郎がやさしく見守る。

デザイン　上月ヒロアル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 12
石森章太郎

282
小学館文庫
330

佐武と市捕物控

12

石森章太郎

■同じ著者による「小学館文庫」収録作品■

「佐武と市捕物控」
第１巻＝隅田川物語＝￥330
第２巻＝晩い夏＝　￥330
第３巻＝芒＝　￥330
第４巻＝水留り＝　￥330
第５巻＝暫＝　￥330
第６巻＝花祭り＝　￥330
第７巻＝氷の朔日＝　￥330
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第11巻＝菖蒲＝　￥260
第12巻＝屏風の女＝　￥330（以下続刊）

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第10巻＝￥290　（以下続刊）

「馬がゆく！」
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第４巻＝￥330　（全４巻・完結）

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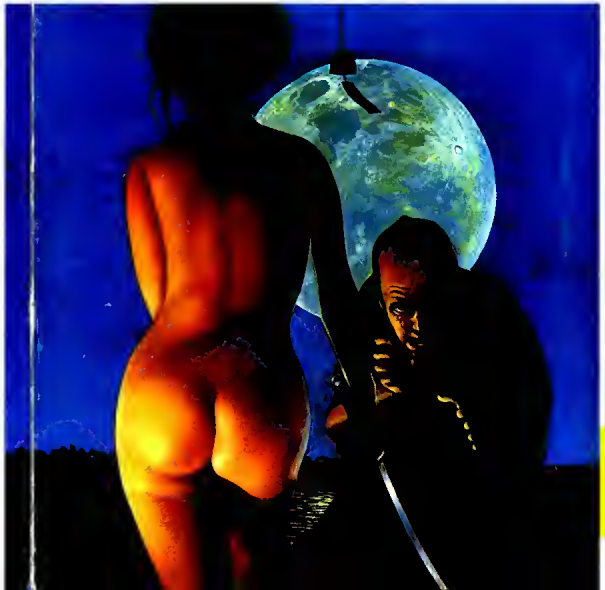
SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO



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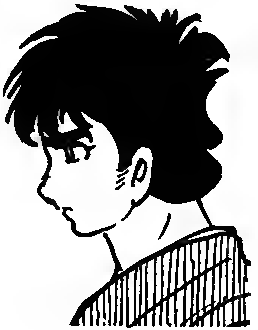
Shogakukan Bunkos
Sabu and Ichi's
Detective Stories
Volume 12
By Shotaro Ishinomori



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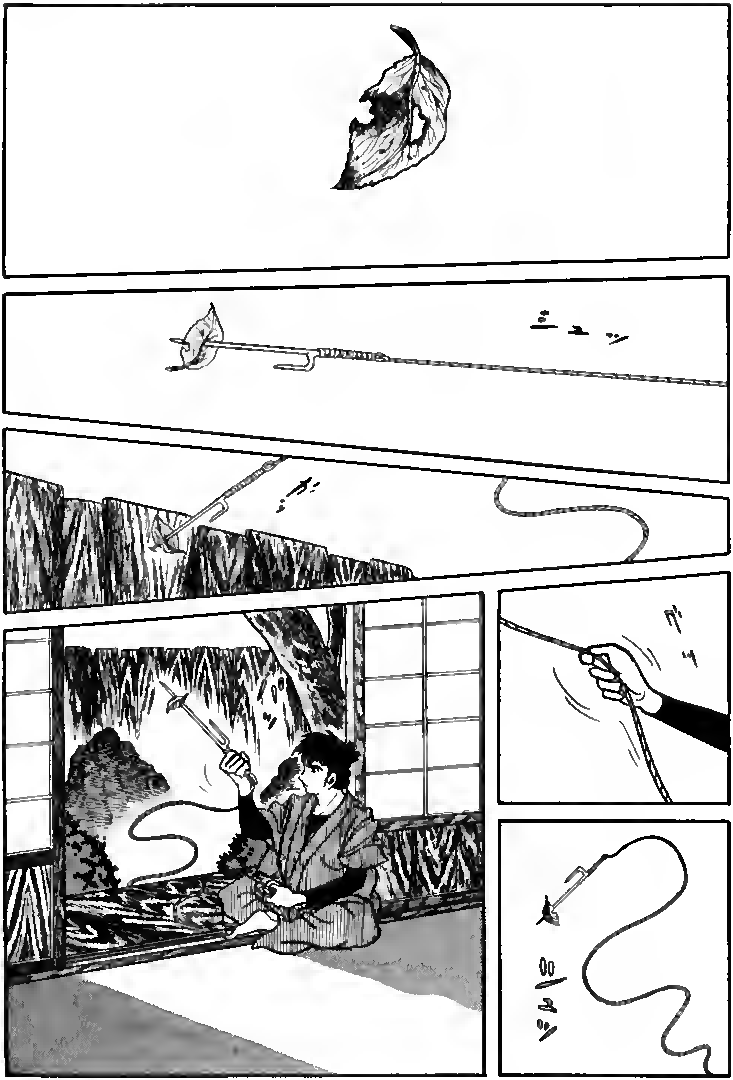
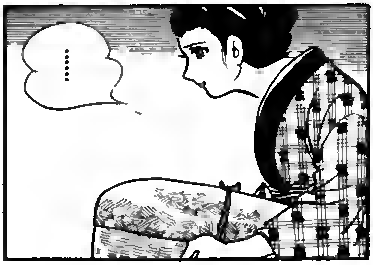
Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories Volume 12 Contents

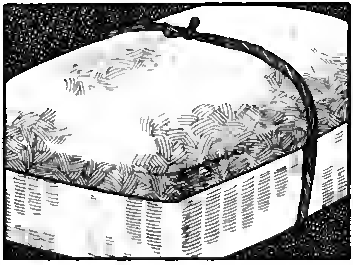
Chapter 70: Woman of the Folding Screen
Chapter 71: The Wintry Wind Blows and Winter Comes
Chapter 72: What Did You Get As a Souvenir to Hell?
Chapter 73: Folk Songs in the Children's Limbo
Chapter 74: The Mouse Cries over Nothing
Chapter 75: Who Is Standing Behind You?
Chapter 76: The Hackberry Cries at Night

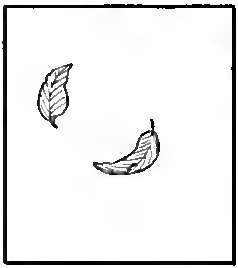
Cover Illustration by Gen'ichi Takise

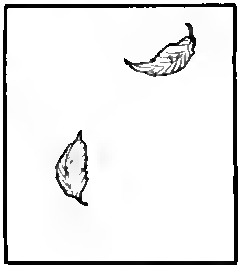
Chapter 70: Woman of the Folding Screen

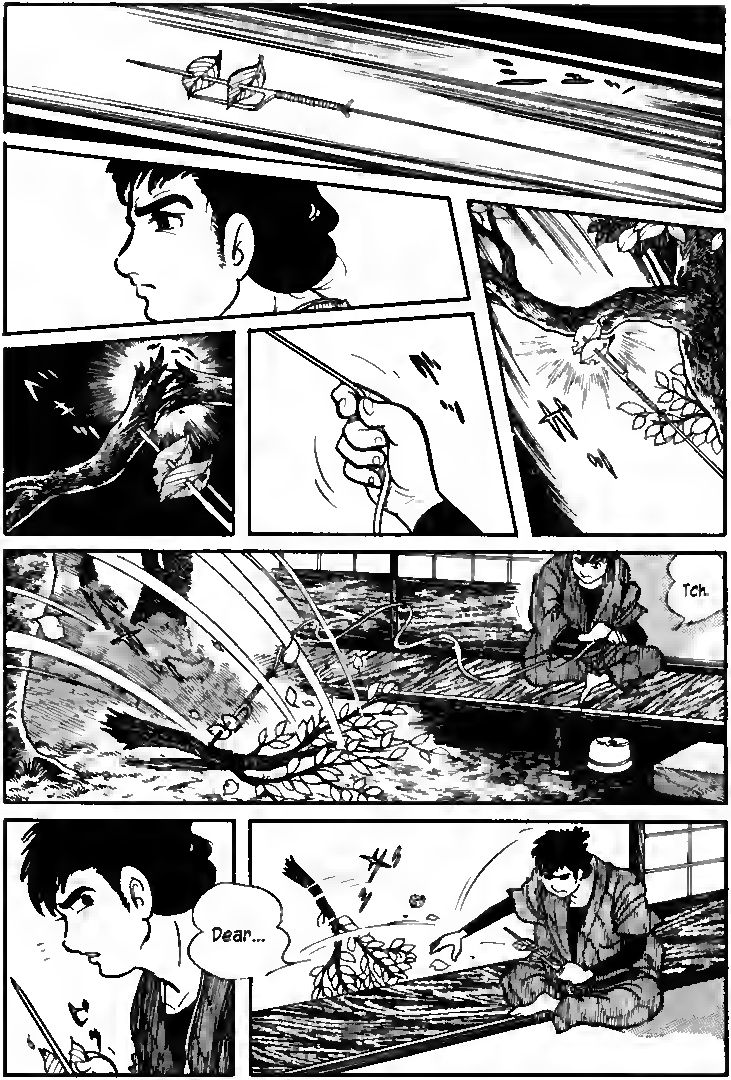











シュッ
Tch.
Dear...

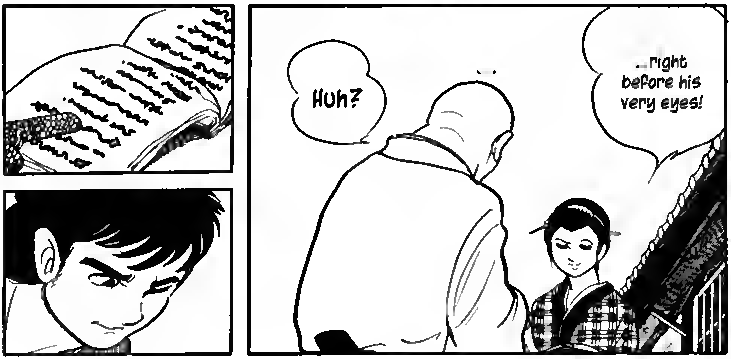
I...
... What?
?
These are detective memoirs .. From when my father was healthy.
N-No, they're not about his exploits
Remember when I told you about them?
He had plenty of cases where he gave up halfway..
because he couldn't find the perpetrator at all ..
or because the lieutenants and constables ordered him to stop the search...

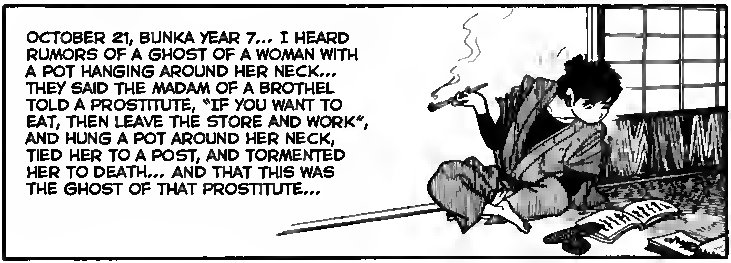
...may not serve much use, but at least they should serve as a diversion.
...These old and unsolved cases...
.....
So he had these written down on his own time...
...I don't wanna look at those!
It'll only frustrate me more!
I'll leave them there...
If you're ever bored... Just look at them to pass the time.
SIGN CHRONICLE OF THE SPRING SNOW
She's getting more and more cheeky...
God-dammit, she's talking in sarcasm...

How's Sabu holding up?
Hmm... Same as usual.

But is he almost to the point where he is willing to take up his truncheon again?
Well, that comes with the territory...
Heh he..
..And just as stubborn.

And I just dangled a piece of bait...
Heehee..
So it seems.. He's been swinging his old handmade truncheon around.
Yes, he is.


Huh?
..right before his very eyes!


OCTOBER 21, BUNKA YEAR 7... I HEARD RUMORS OF A GHOST OF A WOMAN WITH A POT HANGING AROUND HER NECK... THEY SAID THE MADAM OF A BROTHEL TOLD A PROSTITUTE, "IF YOU WANT TO EAT, THEN LEAVE THE STORE AND WORK", AND HUNG A POT AROUND HER NECK, TIED HER TO A POST, AND TORMENTED HER TO DEATH... AND THAT THIS WAS THE GHOST OF THAT PROSTITUTE...

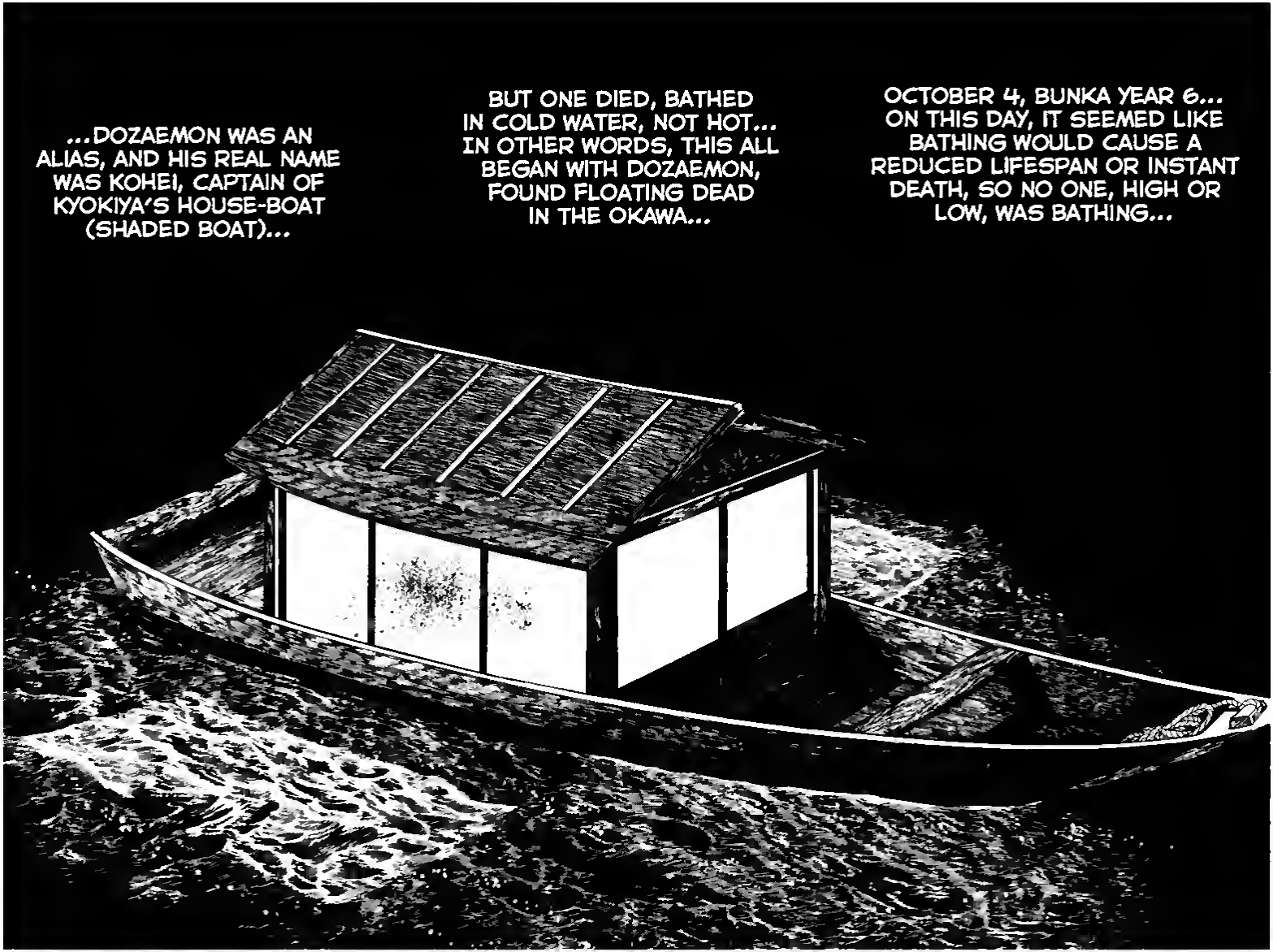
NOVEMBER 21, BUNKA YEAR 9... FIRE OUTBREAKS AT RYUIZUMI TEMPLE, SPREADS TO YOSHIWARA NEW DISTRICT, ONE BLOCK ENTIRELY BURNED DOWN, TO TAMACHI, KITAMA, HYAKKANNON, TO THE DISTRICT OF MACHIYAMA... A FIRE OUTBREAKS FROM A PLACE WITH NO TRACE OF FIRE... IT'S TIME TO LOOK INTO IT...

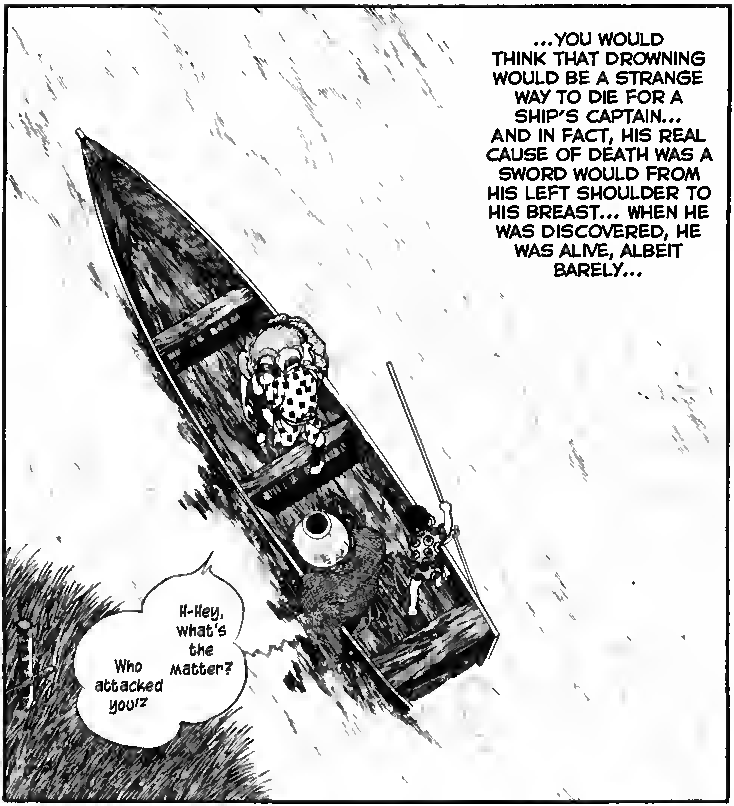
JANUARY 15, BUNKA YEAR 8... A CERTAIN GREENGROCER IN TAMACHI WAS BROKEN INTO BY FOUR OR FIVE MEN, AND HAD HIS GREENS STOLEN. HIS ONLY INJURY WAS A LUMP ON THE HEAD, BUT DUE TO THE SNOW THIS WINTER, AND THE HIGH PRICE OF YOUNG GREENS, AT 72 TO 80 MON PER BUNCH, HE IS DESPERATE TO SEE THE CRIMINALS CAUGHT.

...THE ONES WHO SAW THE GHOST APPEAR TO BE TWO OR THREE PROSTITUTES WHO SYMPATHIZED WITH THEIR DECEASED FRIEND, AND WITH IT BEING A SMOKE-LIKE SPIRIT, THE MADAM GIVES IT NO THOUGHT DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE.

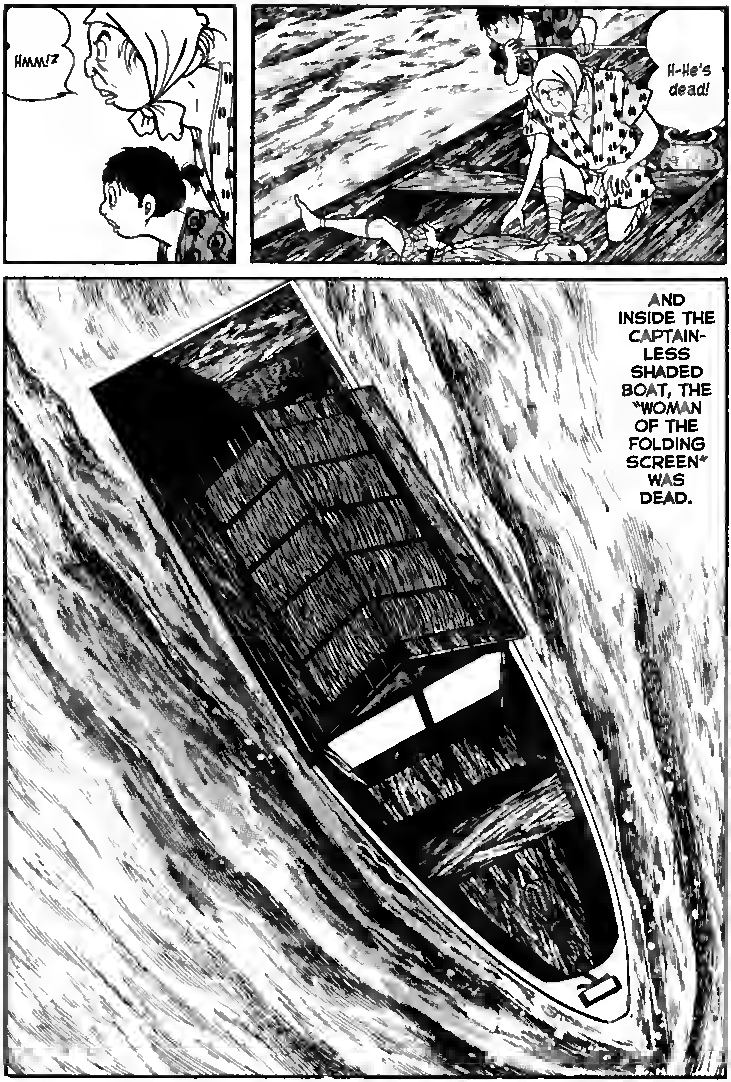
Heh... I think you're right.
I think finding the trigger may be one of the hard parts...
I think if he has some sort of a trigger...
...He's just being stubborn, that's all..

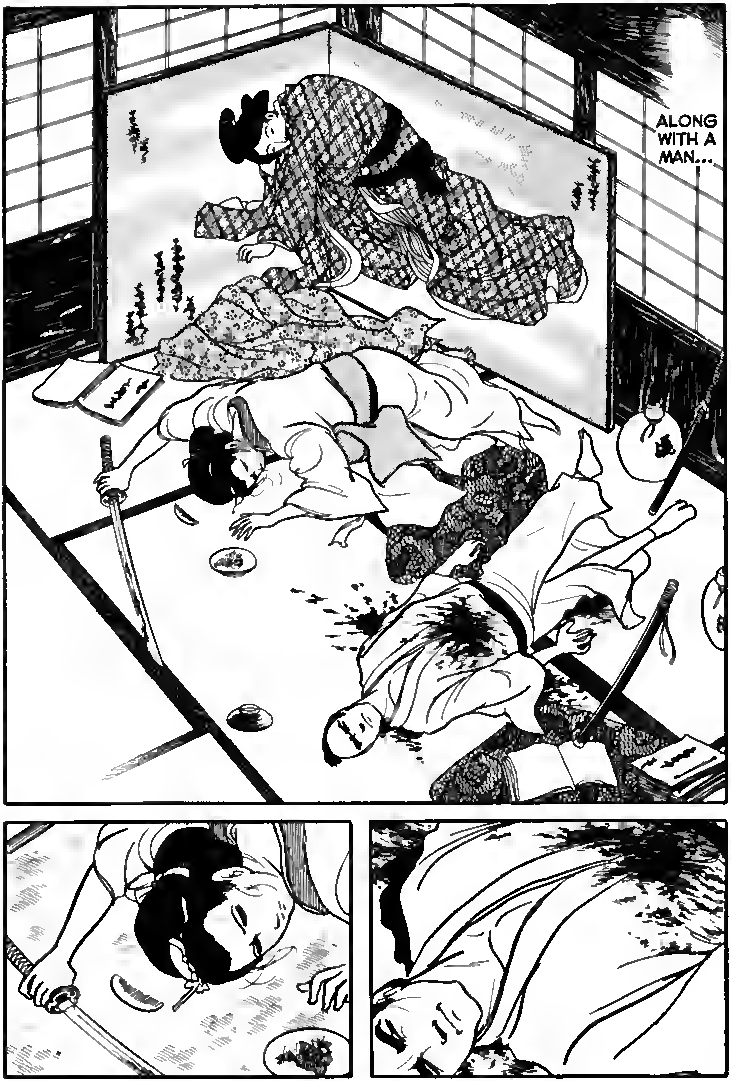
...And I don't suppose Sir Tanabe is going to go after him asking him to take it back...
I wonder if they'll give it back for his honesty ..
But he already gave up his truncheon.
And I was wondering about Midori's sarcasm... Like father, like daughter, I suppose .
This is just like him...
I would've called it "Chronicle of the Shrine Visit"...
HMM!?
"Woman of the Folding Screen"?
That's why it's the "Chronicle of the Spring Snow"..
The snow in spring melts quickly ...
.....
Must have been an incredibly big case for him!
...Which means that this...
...This is all one book!?


...DOZAEMON WAS AN ALIAS, AND HIS REAL NAME WAS KOHEI, CAPTAIN OF KYOKIYA'S HOUSE-BOAT (SHADED BOAT)...
BUT ONE DIED, BATHED IN COLD WATER, NOT HOT... IN OTHER WORDS, THIS ALL BEGAN WITH DOZAEMON, FOUND FLOATING DEAD IN THE OKAWA...
OCTOBER 4, BUNKA YEAR 6... ON THIS DAY, IT SEEMED LIKE BATHING WOULD CAUSE A REDUCED LIFESPAN OR INSTANT DEATH, SO NO ONE, HIGH OR LOW, WAS BATHING...


...YOU WOULD THINK THAT DROWNING WOULD BE A STRANGE WAY TO DIE FOR A SHIP'S CAPTAIN... AND IN FACT, HIS REAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS A SWORD WOULD FROM HIS LEFT SHOULDER TO HIS BREAST... WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED, HE WAS ALIVE, ALBEIT BARELY...
H-Hey, what's the matter?
Who attacked you!?

...The Woman of the Folding Screen...
Huh? What was that...?
.....


HMM!?
H-He's dead!
AND INSIDE THE CAPTAIN-LESS SHADED BOAT, THE "WOMAN OF THE FOLDING SCREEN" WAS DEAD.

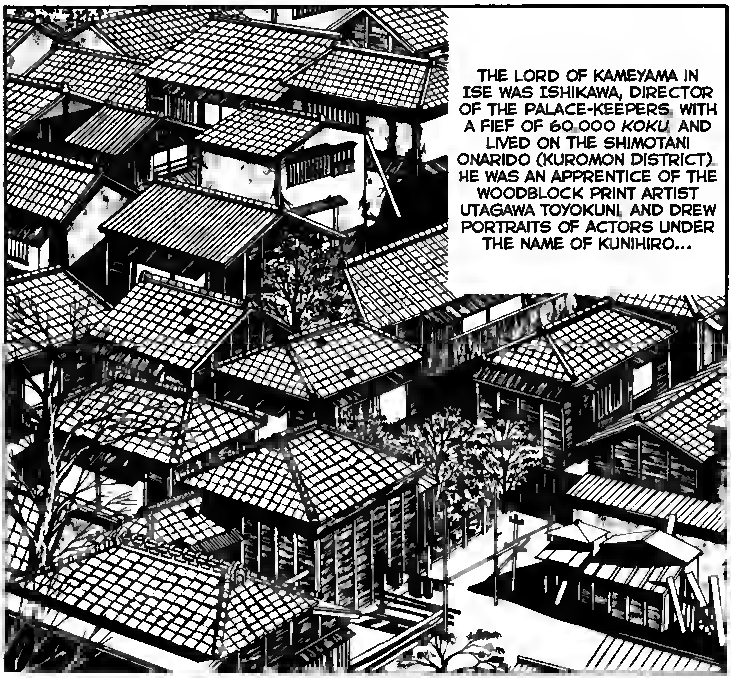

ALONG WITH A MAN...

So does that mean... that this woman killed him?
Captain Kohei mentioned the Woman of the Folding Screen...
The Woman of the Folding Screen...

...She stabbed this man, gutted the captain, drank poison... and died?
...And the woman was the prostitute drawn on the folding screen...
A model for a painting and a samurai...
Yes...
By Toyokuni?
Y-Yes, you see, this boat...
This is quite a fine boat. Mind telling me about it...?
I need the man's identity and the prostitute's name...
It is quite a strange combination... You think it was a lover's suicide?

...was built for the lord of Kameyama in Ise...
T...That samurai accompanied him many a time...
Yes, he was a member of the lord's clan...

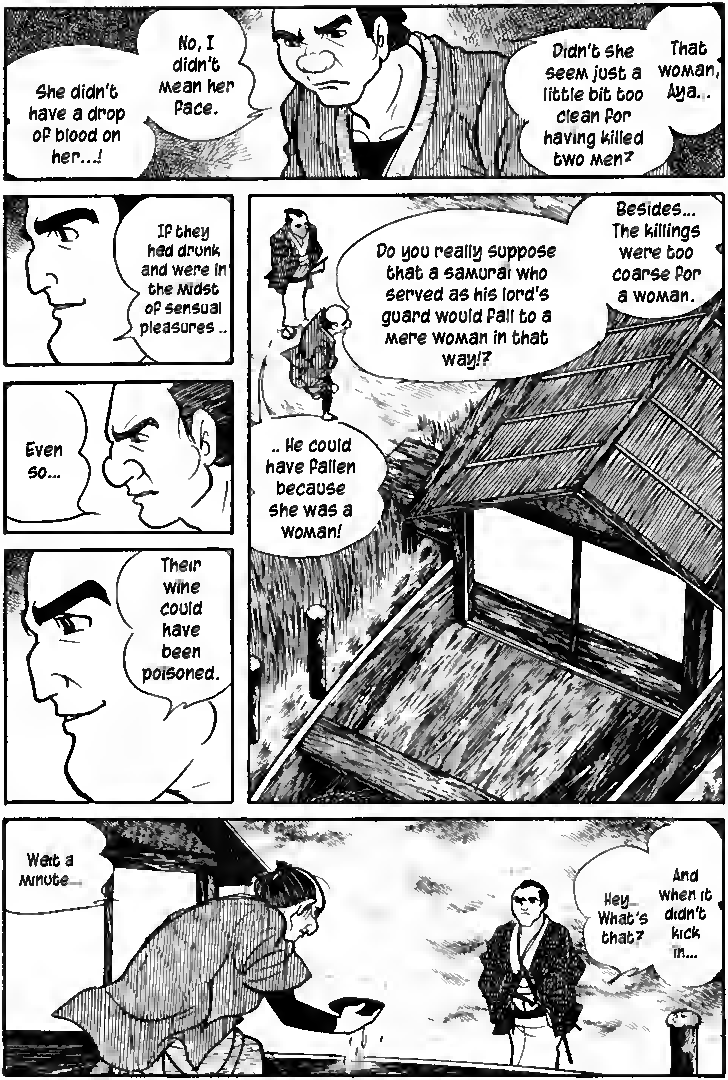
The lord... of Kameyama in Ise!?


THE LORD OF KAMEYAMA IN ISE WAS ISHIKAWA, DIRECTOR OF THE PALACE-KEEPERS, WITH A FIEF OF 60,000 KOKU AND LIVED ON THE SHIMOTANI ONARIDO (KUROMON DISTRICT). HE WAS AN APPRENTICE OF THE WOODBLOCK PRINT ARTIST UTAGAWA TOYOKUNI, AND DREW PORTRAITS OF ACTORS UNDER THE NAME OF KUNIHIRO...

UTAGAWA TOYOKUNI, THE ARTIST. STUDENT OF UTAGAWA TOYOHARU. POPULARLY KNOWN AS KUMAKICHI, AGE 41. OFTEN DRAWS PORTRAITS OF ACTORS. RESIDES IN MAKI DISTRICT.
Sir Tadokoro Shura... My lord's clansman...
...There is no doubt about it. That is certainly...
And the prostitute?
No, she was no prostitute...
Well, she was indeed a woman from a tea house...
But Aya was an accredited master of the Fujima School... and a student of Master Fujima Kanjuro...

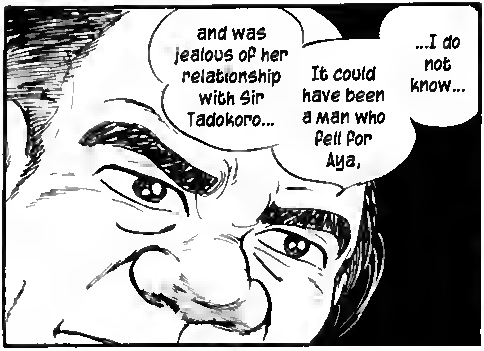
So Sir Tadokoro would grow intimate with her...
He would often come and go to our place with my lord...
...Yes.
That is how Sir Tadokoro came to know her,
and, it seems, fell for her.
Were those the captain's last words?
Did you say the "Woman of the Folding Screen"...?
...And yes, Lady Aya was the model for the "Woman of the Folding Screen".
And you are...!?
...Does the "Woman of the Folding Screen". mean anything to you...?
Ah, my name's Kuniyoshi... and I'm the Master's second disciple...

I'm just impressed that he figured out that the image on the folding screen and its model were the same woman. Hehehe...
You said the "Woman of the Folding Screen" was found dead in the captainless shaded boat.
Huh!? What ...!?
.....
It was a lover's suicide!? So I suppose.
Huh?
but feel my nose itching.
I can't help..
So what seems suspicious to you?
Ahh, Boss Saheiji and his nose!


That woman, Aya...
Didn't she seem just a little bit too clean for having killed two men?
No, I didn't mean her face.
She didn't have a drop of blood on her...!
Besides... The killings were too coarse for a woman.
Do you really suppose that a samurai who served as his lord's guard would fall to a mere woman in that way!?
.. He could have fallen because she was a woman!
If they had drunk and were in the midst of sensual pleasures ..
Even so...
Their wine could have been poisoned.
And when it didn't kick in...
Hey... What's that?
Wait a minute...

……
They... weren't drinking poison.
The poison was smeared... on the inside of the cup!
ピチャ ピチャ
And so... she killed the man first, then herself.
The woman would die for her love, but not so for the man.
Yes... if it were forced.
Do you really expect a lover's suicide to be this elaborate?

I wouldn't call it coarse...
...And when the captain looked in to see what the commotion was inside...
But the man was in so much agony, that she took his sword.
What if there were another man aboard the ship...?
But sir...
She was a good enough dancer to be an accredited master. Don't you suppose that she would be nimble enough for the task?
...Then set it up to look like the woman's doing... and escaped into the river.
And killed the captain who learned of the truth...
He killed them both with the poisoned cups. Then stabbed the man who survived and fought back...
...No, perhaps... he boarded from another ship mid-voyage
See!?
...No, the samurai and the woman were definitely alone inside!



(BAN ON ACTRESSES)

I DREAMED OF SEEING YOU, AND DECIDED TO SMILE, BUT AS I LOOKED AROUND ME I SAW NOTHING BUT WEEPING GRASS. THOUGH I MADE UP MY MIND, THE NIGHTFALL OF THE DAY MADE ME CHANGE MY MIND, AND I CRIED ALONE. WHAT FATE IS IT THAT MAKES ME FEEL THIS WAY? I CLOSE IT UP IN MY HEART AND FACE THE MIRROR, SEEING MY TEARS FALLING DOWN MY FACE POWDER, A CLOUDY LAYER OF WHITE MAKEUP.

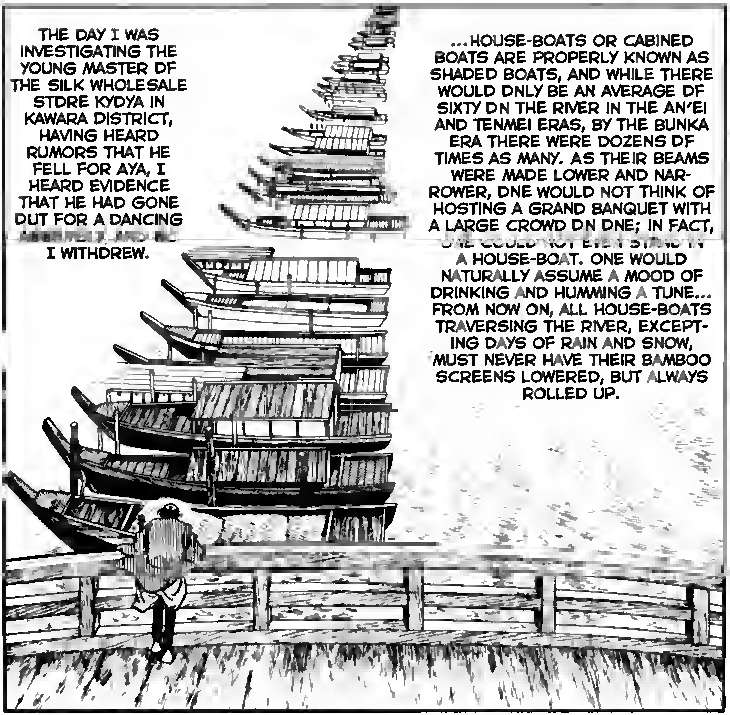
SUCH "SHINNAI" *JORURI* RECITERS WERE FORBIDDEN ENTRY INTO THE BROTHELS OF YOSHIWARA, AS THEY WERE THOUGHT TO BE THE CAUSE OF LOVERS' SUICIDES.

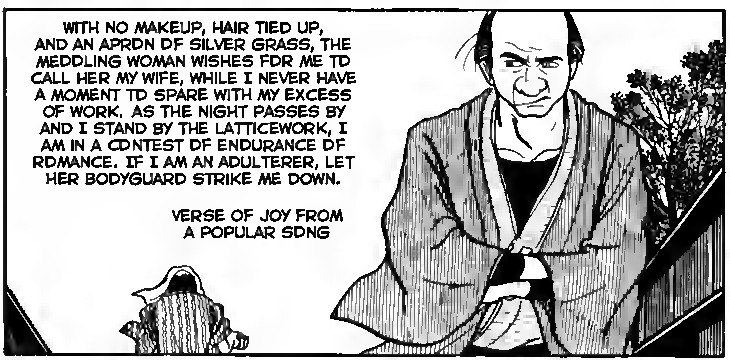
ALL FEMALE *JORURI* RECITERS, ETC., ON SHRINE AND STATE-OWNED LAND, OR FEMALE JORURI RECITERS CALLED *DEGATARI*, WHICH APPEAR ONSTAGE ON FIXED DATES, ARE HEREBY BANNED FROM PERFORMANCE. ALL LANDLORDS AND TENANTS OF EVERY DISTRICT ARE TO KEEP A JOINT-SIGNED AGREEMENT IN STORAGE.

..."WHAT WANT HAVE I FOR MONEY FOR THE MAN I LOVE? WERE MY BODY TO FADE INTO THE MIST, I WOULD LEAVE NO GRUDGE." "AHH, MIDORI, HOWEVER SORROWFUL YOU ARE, HOWEVER MUCH I ENDURE YOUR HATRED, FORGIVE ME THE UNFORESEEN SUFFERING I CAUSED YOU FOR USING YOU AS A PROSTITUTE, FOR THIS SNOW SHALL ONLY FALL TONIGHT"...

[DAYBREAK DREAM OF A LIGHT SNOWFALL]

AS THE SPRING RAIN STIRRED HOSATO FROM HER SLEEP WITH A GENTLE BREEZE, BY WHATEVER FATE, HER TENDER FEELINGS FOR HIM SINCE SHE MET HIM SPREAD GENTLY THROUGH HER BODY, AND SHE ENDURED HER SHAMEFUL NOSTALGIA AMIDST HER NIGHT-CLOTHES BARRING OUTSIDE EYES. HER FRUSTRATION WITH THE DAWN WAS LIKE HAIR ON HER SIDEBURNS.


THE DAY I WAS INVESTIGATING THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE SILK WHOLESALE STORE KYOYA IN KAWARA DISTRICT, HAVING HEARD RUMORS THAT HE FELL FOR AYA, I HEARD EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD GONE OUT FOR A DANCING
I WITHDREW.
...HOUSE-BOATS OR CABINED BOATS ARE PROPERLY KNOWN AS SHADED BOATS, AND WHILE THERE WOULD ONLY BE AN AVERAGE OF SIXTY ON THE RIVER IN THE AN'EI AND TENMEI ERAS, BY THE BUNKA ERA THERE WERE DOZENS OF TIMES AS MANY. AS THEIR BEAMS WERE MADE LOWER AND NARROWER, ONE WOULD NOT THINK OF HOSTING A GRAND BANQUET WITH A LARGE CROWD ON ONE; IN FACT, ONE COULD NOT EVEN STAND IN A HOUSE-BOAT. ONE WOULD NATURALLY ASSUME A MOOD OF DRINKING AND HUMMING A TUNE... FROM NOW ON, ALL HOUSE-BOATS TRAVERSING THE RIVER, EXCEPTING DAYS OF RAIN AND SNOW, MUST NEVER HAVE THEIR BAMBOO SCREENS LOWERED, BUT ALWAYS ROLLED UP.


WITH NO MAKEUP, HAIR TIED UP, AND AN APRON OF SILVER GRASS, THE MEDDLING WOMAN WISHES FOR ME TO CALL HER MY WIFE, WHILE I NEVER HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE WITH MY EXCESS OF WORK. AS THE NIGHT PASSES BY AND I STAND BY THE LATTICEWORK, I AM IN A CONTEST OF ENDURANCE OF ROMANCE. IF I AM AN ADULTERER, LET HER BODYGUARD STRIKE ME DOWN.
VERSE OF JOY FROM A POPULAR SONG

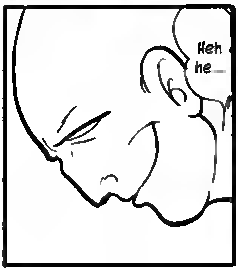
THE CASE OF THE HOUSE-BOAT LOVE SUICIDES OF TADOKORO SHURA, OF THE CLAN OF THE LORD OF KAMEYAMA IN ISE, AND AYA, MASTER OF THE FUJIMA SCHOOL, ARE HEREBY CLOSED, AND ALL INVESTIGATION WILL BE CEASED.

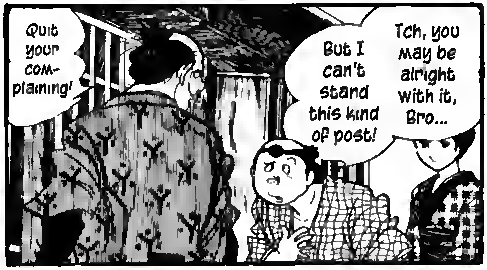
REGARDING ILLUSTRATED GOUKAN ROMANCE BOOKS AND SIMILAR ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE, LATELY, ILLUSTRATED GOUKAN BOOKS AND SIMILAR HAVE CONTAINED EXCEEDINGLY GRAPHIC CONTENT, WITH THE BINDING PAINTED WITH UTMOST CRAFTSMANSHIP, BUT THAT ASIDE, SUCH ROMANCE BOOKS AND SIMILAR LITERATURE PORTRAY ALL KINDS OF SENSUALITY AND LOVERS' SUICIDES, SPREAD RAMPANT IMMORALITY, AND HAVE CONNECTIONS TO THE SEX INDUSTRY, AND THOUGH THERE ARE VILLAGE HEADMEN IN CHARGE, THE FACT THAT FOR WHATEVER REASON THEY ARE DISREGARDED IS A DIFFICULT THING TO ACCEPT... THOUGH THEY DO ALL THEY CAN ABOUT THE INSERTED PICTURES, THIS IS ENTIRELY FUTILE IN TERMS OF THE PAGES THEMSELVES... ALL ROMANCE BOOKS ARE HEREBY STRICTLY DECLARED TO BE BANNED, AND ARE TO BE SURRENDERED WITHOUT EXCEPTION...

(BAN ON SENSUAL LITERATURE SUCH AS ROMANCE NOVELS AND EROTIC WOODBLOCK PRINTS)

The Woman of the Folding Screen.. Kuniyoshi was right!
Unless there was an exceptionally obvious defining feature, connecting the painting to the model .. is impossible!
Mmmgh.. My nose is itching. .

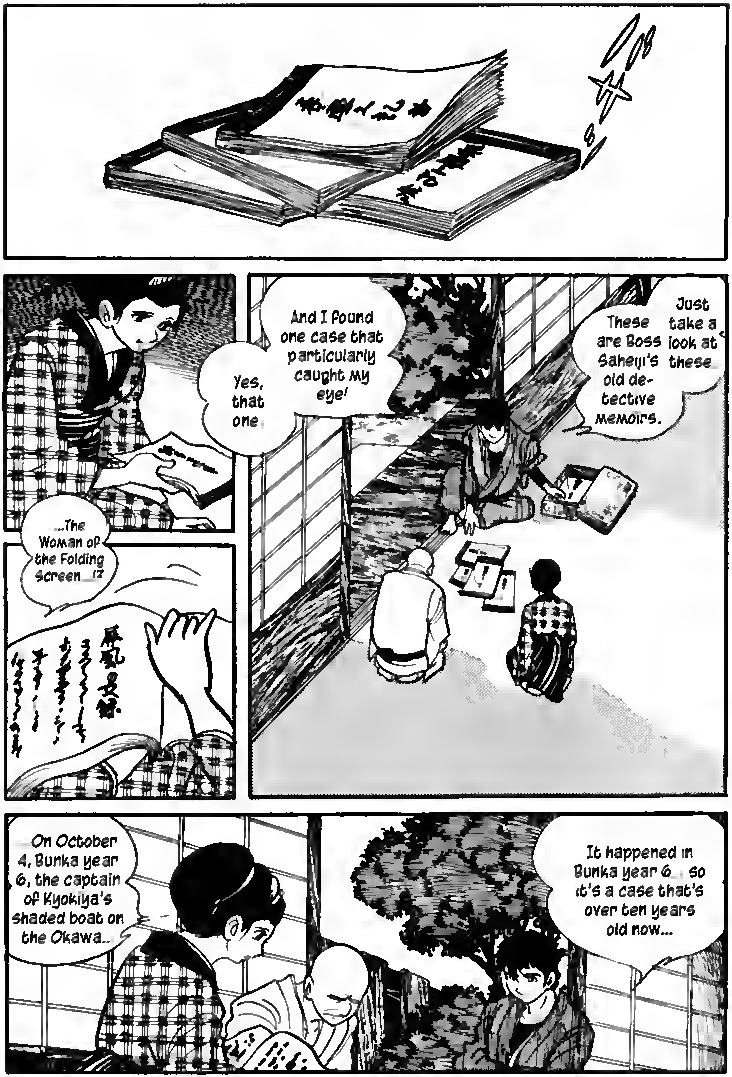
Yes, no need to worry ~ Sis!
Better do it right!
You two got it?

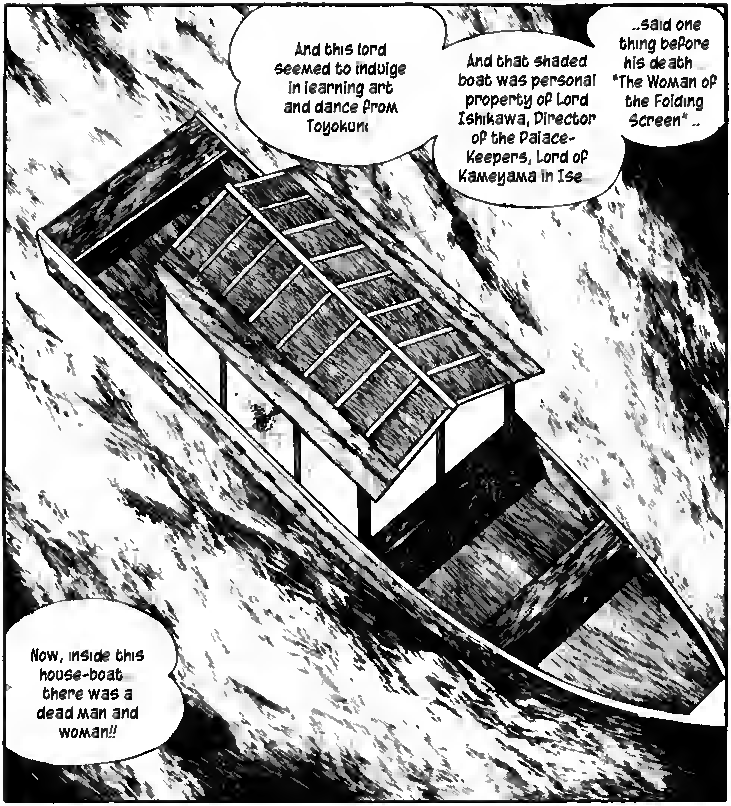

Heh he...


Quit your complaining!
But I can't stand this kind of post!
Tch, you may be alright with it, Bro...

Of course it'll go well!
If it doesn't, I'll starve to death, too!
It seems that Butamatsu's got his hands in someone else's pockets again...
But of course, with Boss Sabu not working... he'll starve to death.
Right!?
Hehehe... I hope this goes well...!
Shhh!
Alright
Come in!
I pity Sabu... Hehehe...
Hehhe... My, oh, my, to think that the title of a wife would change a person so much
Bro!?
Boss!
Chohho!
Come on, let's go!

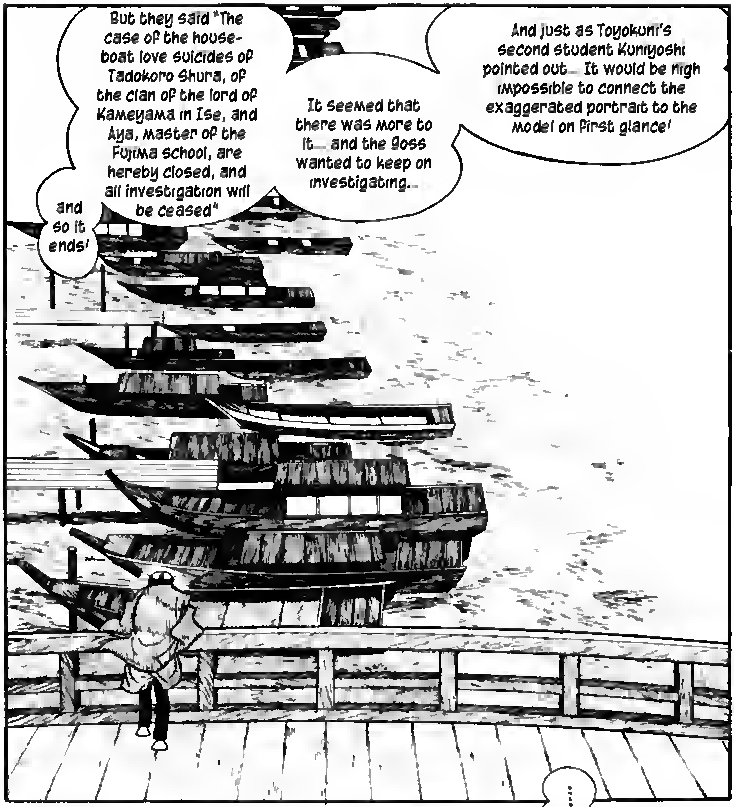
Huh!?
I was just thinking about calling you up!
Hey!
You guys came at a good time!
We'll head right over and investigate!!
You got it!!
?
!


Just take a look at these.
These are Boss Saheiji's old detective memoirs.
And I found one case that particularly caught my eye!
Yes, that one.
...The Woman of the Folding Screen...!?
On October 4, Bunka year 6, the captain of Kyokiya's shaded boat on the Okawa...
It happened in Bunka year 6... so it's a case that's over ten years old now...


And this lord seemed to indulge in learning art and dance from Toyokuni
And that shaded boat was personal property of Lord Ishikawa, Director of the Palace-Keepers, Lord of Kameyama in Ise
..said one thing before his death "The Woman of the Folding Screen"..
Now, inside this house-boat there was a dead man and woman!!

And in the end...
Inside the boat was a folding screen painted by the artist Utagawa Toyokuni... and Toyokuni's testimony proved that Aya was the model...
And she was the "Woman of the Folding Screen" the captain spoke of...
and the woman was Aya... a student of Fujima Kanjoro of the Fujima school, from the tea-house Murasaki.
The man was Tadokoro Shuna, a samurai serving as Ishikawa's guard.

How-ever...
The case was closed as a forced lover's suicide with Aya having murdered the captain and Tadokoro, and drinking poison herself.
...With Aya found dead clutching a bloody sword, the fact that she had been intimate with Tadokoro Shuna, and the captain's last words...
Wasn't it a little too bloody for a lover's suicide?
...My boss Saheiji's famous nose started to itch!
Unless there was a particularly obvious defining feature...
I'm just impressed that he found out... that the "painting" and the "model" of the folding screen were the same woman...
How did the captain know that Aya was the model of the folding screen?

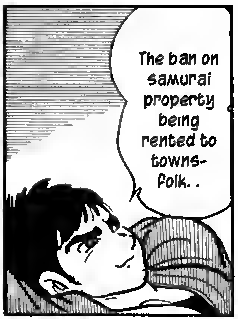

And just as Toyokuni's second student Kuniyoshi pointed out... It would be nigh impossible to connect the exaggerated portrait to the model on first glance!
It seemed that there was more to it... and the boss wanted to keep on investigating...
But they said "The case of the house-boat love suicides of Tadokoro Shura, of the clan of the lord of Kameyama in Ise, and Aya, master of the Fujima school, are hereby closed, and all investigation will be ceased"
and so it ends!

.....

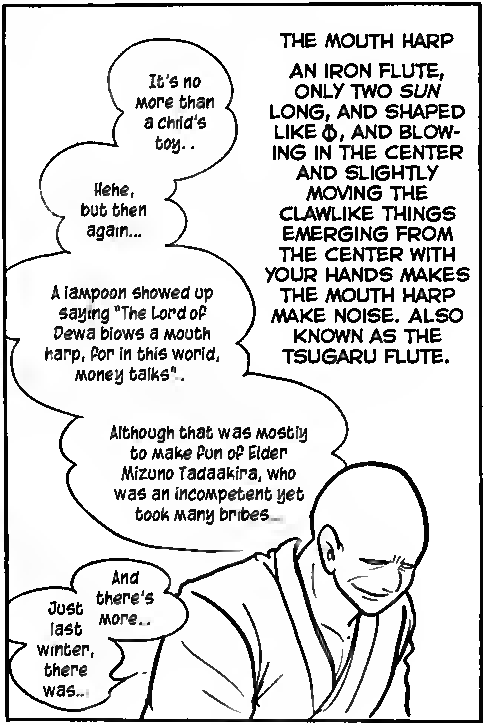
Hehehe... I felt like starting it back up again!
It said "all investigation will be ceased"...
So, Sabu... Where did you send Gimpei and Butamatsu...?
But... Isn't it a ten-year-old case?
...
...
I'm just bored...
for no real reason...
Just...
...Well... I'm not exactly trying to find the suspect...
Hmm?
And of all things, quotes from bans...
He wrote in popular songs and joruri...
Huh?
What do you think Father was trying to say?

Hehhe, nothing different now.
It looks like there were a lot of bans issued around that time! And still...

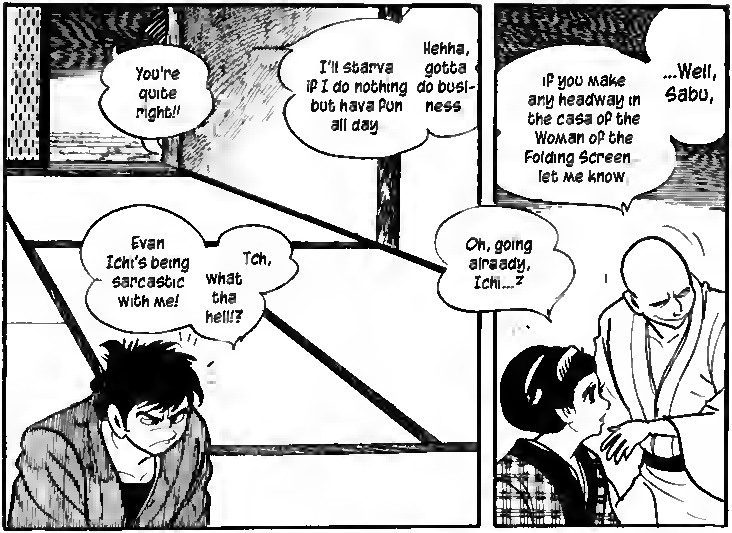
Remember, just one or two years ago, they banned the mouth harp?
There are plenty of them that say you can't do that, can't do this. !


The ban on samurai property being rented to townsfolk. .

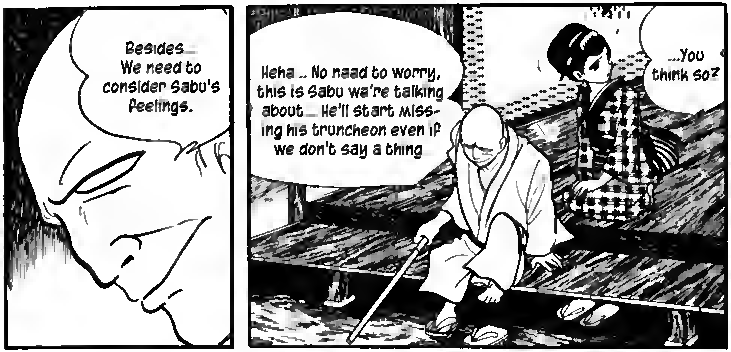
This is just what politics is.
Hehe he...
. . . Yes


THE MOUTH HARP
AN IRON FLUTE, ONLY TWO SUN LONG, AND SHAPED LIKE Φ, AND BLOWING IN THE CENTER AND SLIGHTLY MOVING THE CLAWLIKE THINGS EMERGING FROM THE CENTER WITH YOUR HANDS MAKES THE MOUTH HARP MAKE NOISE. ALSO KNOWN AS THE TSUGARU FLUTE.
It's no more than a child's toy. .
Hehe, but then again...
A lampoon showed up saying "The Lord of Dewa blows a mouth harp, for in this world, money talks".
Although that was mostly to make fun of Elder Mizuno Tadaakira, who was an incompetent yet took many bribes...
And there's more..
Just last winter, there was...

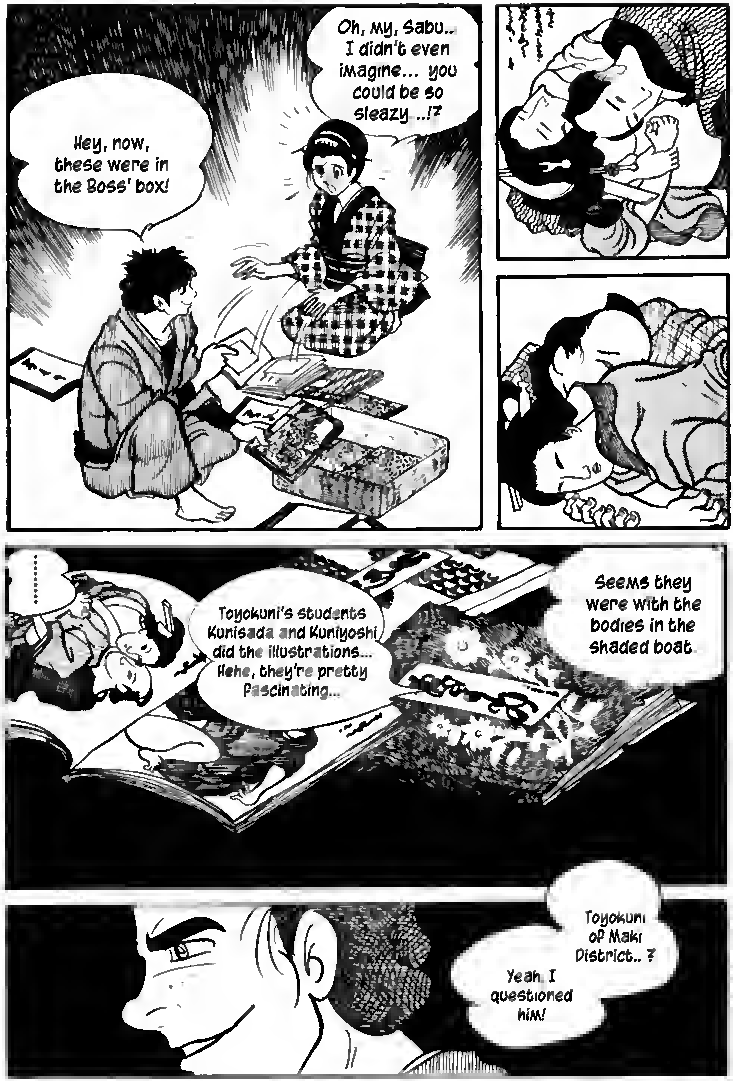
Those who govern and those who are governed live in two entirely different worlds. In their world, erotic books are overflowing, lover's suicides are popular, widows are on the rise, wantonness is rampant... Face lotion is sold, and townsfolk's daughters put on white face powder to act as prostitutes... The world is in disorder, so they ban this and ban that... They focus only on this, not even looking at us or the places that we live in. That's why they don't see... why mouth harps are popular, or why we read lampoons. They don't understand that we laugh at lampoons simply because we have resigned to the fact that a straightforward speech cannot communicate to different people from a different world.


...Well, Sabu,
if you make any headway in the case of the Woman of the Folding Screen let me know
Hehha, gotta do business
I'll starve if I do nothing but have fun all day
You're quite right!!
Oh, going already, Ichi...?
Tch, what the hell!?
Even Ichi's being sarcastic with me!

I'd say it's a little too strong!
...Tee haa
Don't you think our medicine is kicking in well?

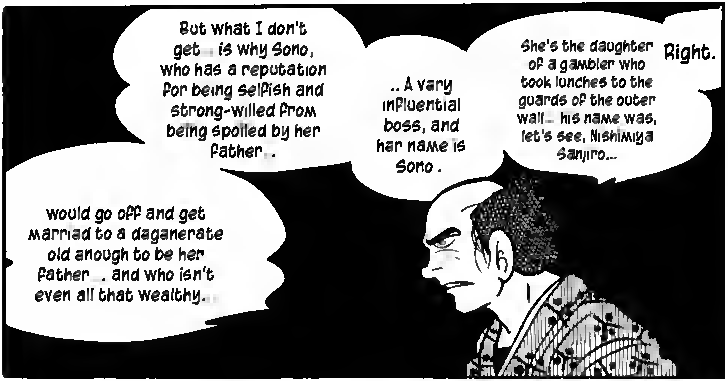

Besides... We need to consider Sabu's feelings.
Heha... No need to worry, this is Sabu we're talking about... He'll start missing his luncheon even if we don't say a thing
...You think so?

You say that as if I don't already know...
.. Well, it's about time for me to get dinner ready...
Oh, what's this?
Erotic books...

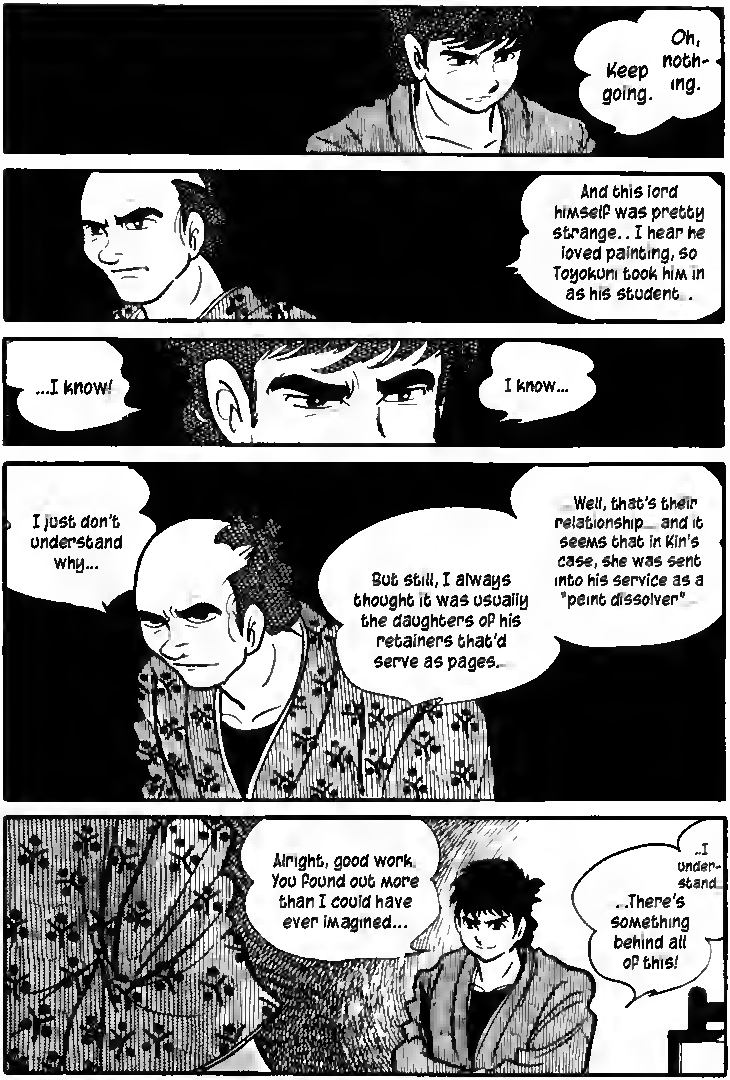

Oh, My, Sabu.. I didn't even imagine... you could be so sleazy ..!?
Hey, now, these were in the Boss' box!
Toyokuni's students Kunisada and Kuniyoshi did the illustrations... Hehe, they're pretty fascinating...
Seems they were with the bodies in the shaded boat.
Toyokuni of Maki District..?
Yeah, I questioned him!

Toyokuni was 41 and the girl was 16, so there was over a twenty year's difference. Don't you find that strange?
In Bunka year 6, same year as the case... Toyokuni, who was separated from his previous wife... remarried... to a girl far younger than him...
But there was just one thing that caught my attention.
But I just felt like I wasn't getting anywhere... It's pretty ancient by now, after all...

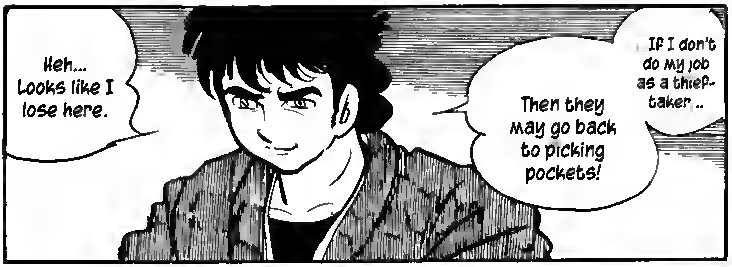
And who was the girl?
Oh?


But what I don't get... is why Sono, who has a reputation for being selfish and strong-willed from being spoiled by her father...
.. A very influential boss, and her name is Sono.
She's the daughter of a gambler who took lunches to the guards of the outer wall... his name was, let's see, Nishimiya Sanjiro...
Right.
would go off and get married to a degenerate old enough to be her father... and who isn't even all that wealthy...

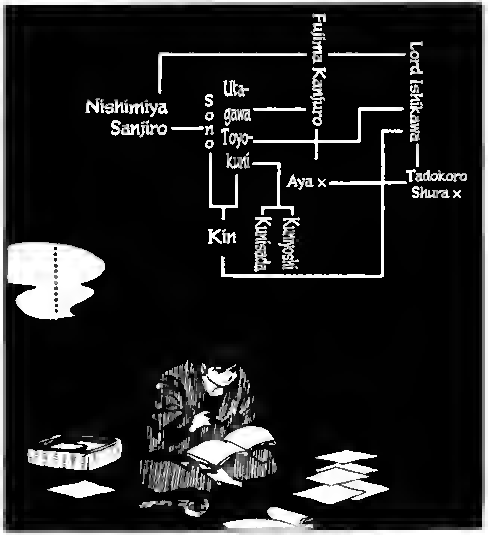
From what I saw, this painter Toyokuni wasn't much of a looker...
Of course, now that he's over fifty, I can't guess what he used to look like...
But it just seems strange...
...And everyone that I asked... was just as puzzled as I was...
Hmm... I see.
So are Toyokuni and Sono still together?
Yes, of course
They soon had a child... A girl named Kin... and they both appeared to be quite affectionate towards her...
.. Oh, yes, there was something rather strange about this Kin...
When she was seven or eight... About four or five years ago by now, she went into the service of one Lord Ishikawa of Kameyama in Ise, as a tea-waitress!
Hmm!?
...What!?

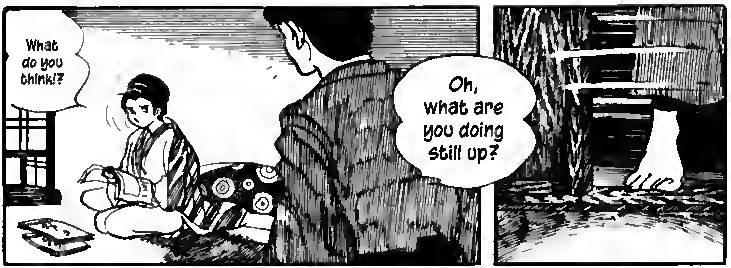

Oh, nothing.
Keep going.
And this lord himself was pretty strange.. I hear he loved painting, so Toyokuni took him in as his student..
I know...
...I know!
Well, that's their relationship... and it seems that in Kin's case, she was sent into his service as a "paint dissolver"...
But still, I always thought it was usually the daughters of his retainers that'd serve as pages...
I just don't understand why...
Alright, good work. You found out more than I could have ever imagined...
..I understand. ..There's something behind all of this!

Well, if something happens.. I'll call you back tomorrow.
Hehhe, now, Bro!
We'll come even if you don't call! We wouldn't last otherwise!
Hey, Buta-Matsu! We're heading home!
Ow, ow, ow, ow...
.....
A-choo!



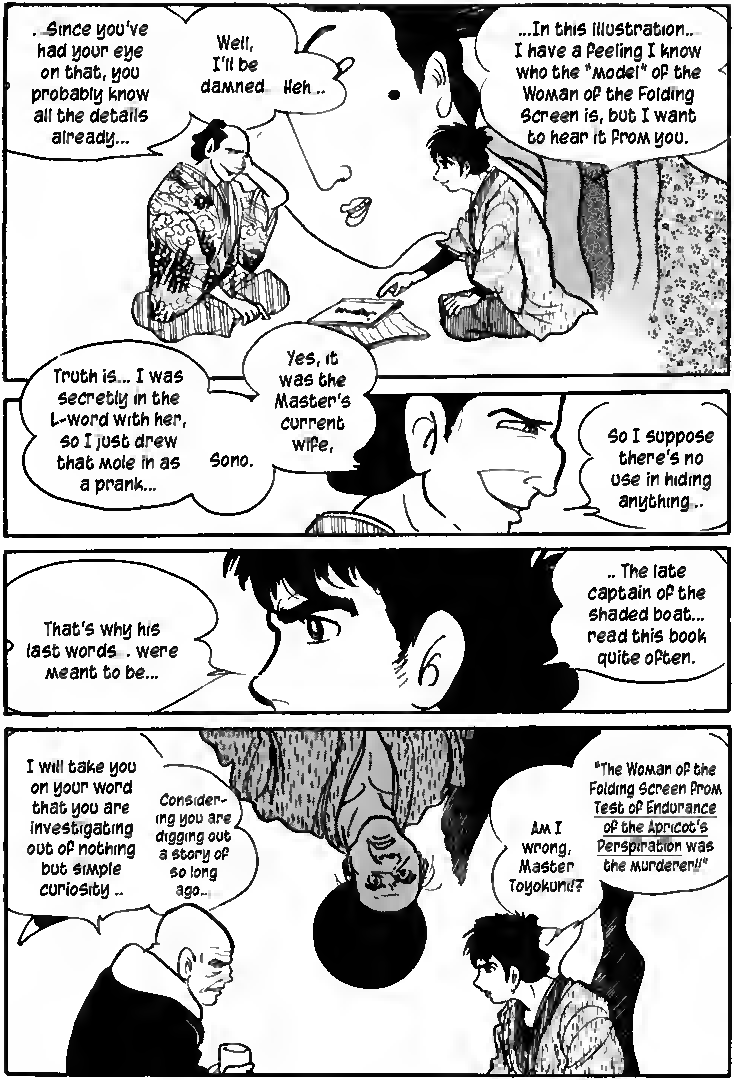
SIGN MEMOIRS





You caught me!
First you call me dirty, and now...
Tch, You're quite the cheeky one
Kch, a clever excuse...
...You've been reading those erotic books, haven't you!?
A thief-taker's wife never goes to bed until her husband's work is done...
Huuuh?
And look at this!
I wanted to help you out in your work...
My...
It's not like I'm reading these for excitement!

Could this have been.. the "Woman of the Folding Screen"!?
What do you think?
I assume "Ichimyokai Kodoyoshi" is your penname..
Kuni-yoshi?


..Since you've had your eye on that, you probably know all the details already...
Well, I'll be damned... Heh..
...In this illustration.. I have a feeling I know who the "model" of the Woman of the Folding Screen is, but I want to hear it from you.
Truth is... I was secretly in the L-word with her, so I just drew that mole in as a prank...
Sono.
Yes, it was the Master's current wife.
So I suppose there's no use in hiding anything..
That's why his last words.. were meant to be...
.. The late captain of the shaded boat... read this book quite often.
I will take you on your word that you are investigating out of nothing but simple curiosity..
Considering you are digging out a story of so long ago..
Am I wrong, Master Toyokuni?
"The Woman of the Folding Screen From Test of Endurance of the Apricot's Perspiration was the Murderer!!"

On that day... they poisoned Aya and loaded her corpse onto Kameyama's clansmen's boat, and followed the house-boat that Sir Tadokoro was riding. And when they had seen that he had done the deed, they rowed up to it and killed the captain to keep the secret, and replaced the dazed Sono with Aya's corpse... Yes, Sono was well acquainted with Lord Ishikawa through me and through Fujima, so she was spared. So she was taken to my place immediately and I decided to call her my second wife, and she gave birth to Sir Tadokoro's child... Yes, I have served as Sono's guardian and watch-keeper since then."

But somehow, this plot was discovered before it could be carried out.

The clansmen of Kameyama in Ise thought that this would be horrible if it were made public, so they set it up to make Tadokoro's death look like a lover's suicide. And they had to choose a sacrifice for it to happen, and Aya was chosen.

For quite some time, Aya was so infatuated with Sir Tadokoro that she kept saying how her heart's desire was to die with Sir Tadokoro, and no one could stop her.

This would make it look to all as a lover's suicide... a forced double suicide... that was a long time coming... or so they all thought.

(...The loyalty and valor of good samurai that rule a nation are hidden, just as the stars are invisible in the day, but appear all over at night...)

"...Sir Tadokoro Shura was a very old-fashioned samurai. He was unaffected and sincere, with fortitude and vigor... and he hated frivolousness.

That's why... he was strongly opposed to the Lord Ishikawa's methods. No, not just the Lord, but all samurai of the day... He was disappointed by the lifestyles of all samurai who serve no purpose any longer, yet still receive stipends.

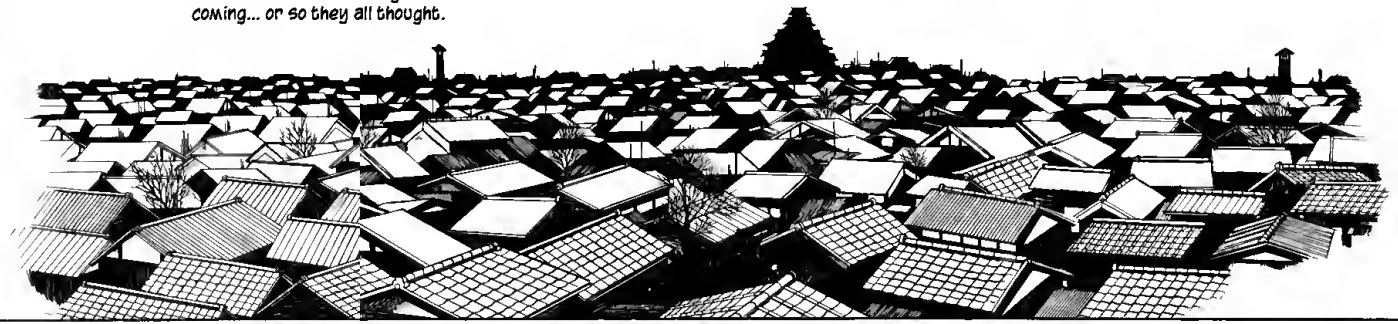
And so to complain against his lord, he chose the house-boat that his lord used for merrymaking... and committed suicide!

The babe in her womb, Kin, was actually Sir Tadokoro's child!

Sono wanted to kill herself, together with Sir Tadokoro... That is how much she loved him. But she lived on for Kin's sake!

But she was not the one... who killed Sir Tadokoro, the captain, or even Aya.

Yes, Sono did not kill a soul!



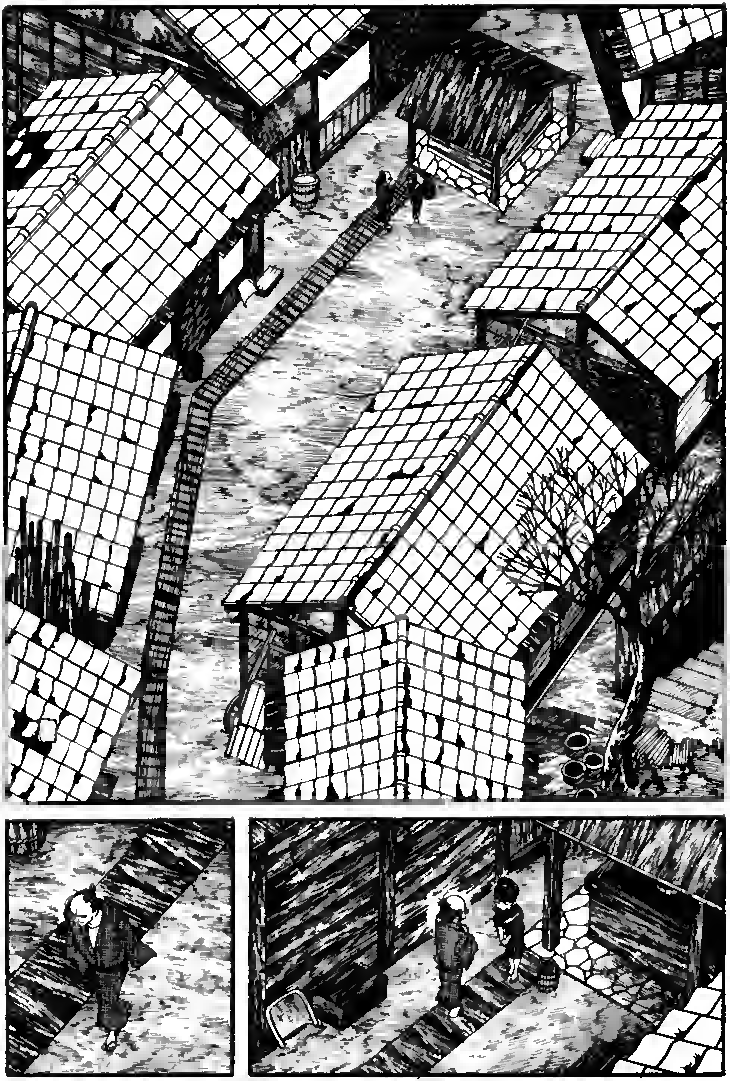
That is why he copied excerpts of bans and joruri into his "Chronicles of the Spring Snow"!!
Boss Saheiji was starting to catch on to the truth of the matter.
Politics, was it ..
...Oh, nothing, just talking to myself!!!
Huh?
Just what I wanted to hear!!
Ginpei, Butamatsu, we're going to Sir Tanabe's.

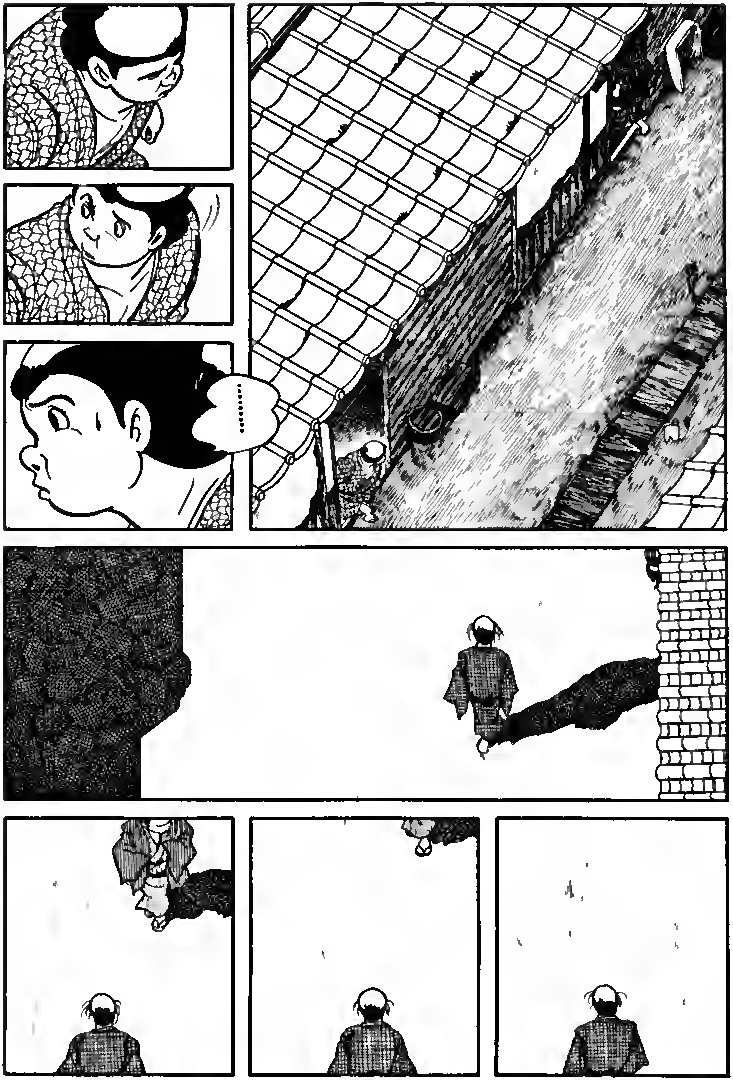
TL NOTE: A COMMON PHRASE SHOUTED BY PEDDLERS OF TOHACHI MEDICINE

November 1971, "Woman of the Folding Screen" (FIN)

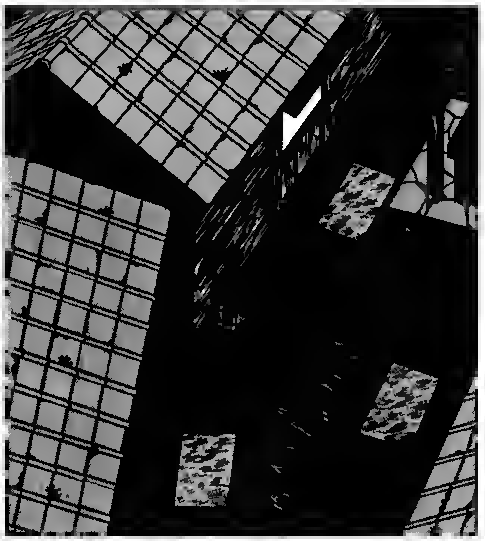
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 70
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 71: The Wintry Wind Blows and Winter Comes

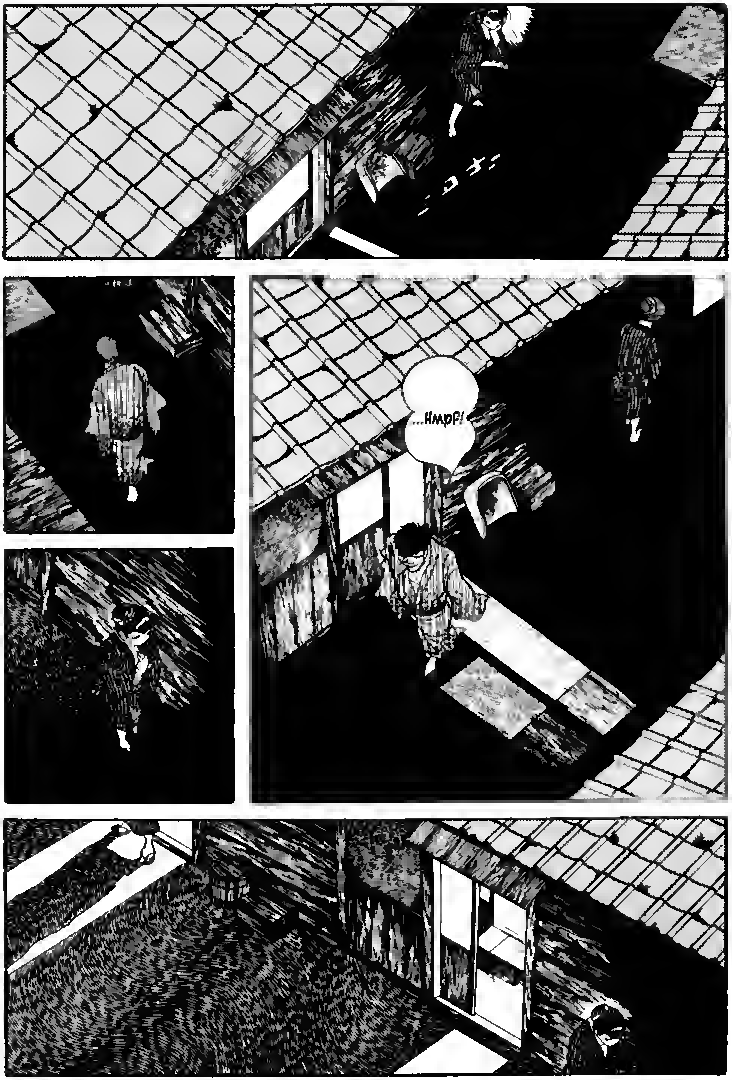




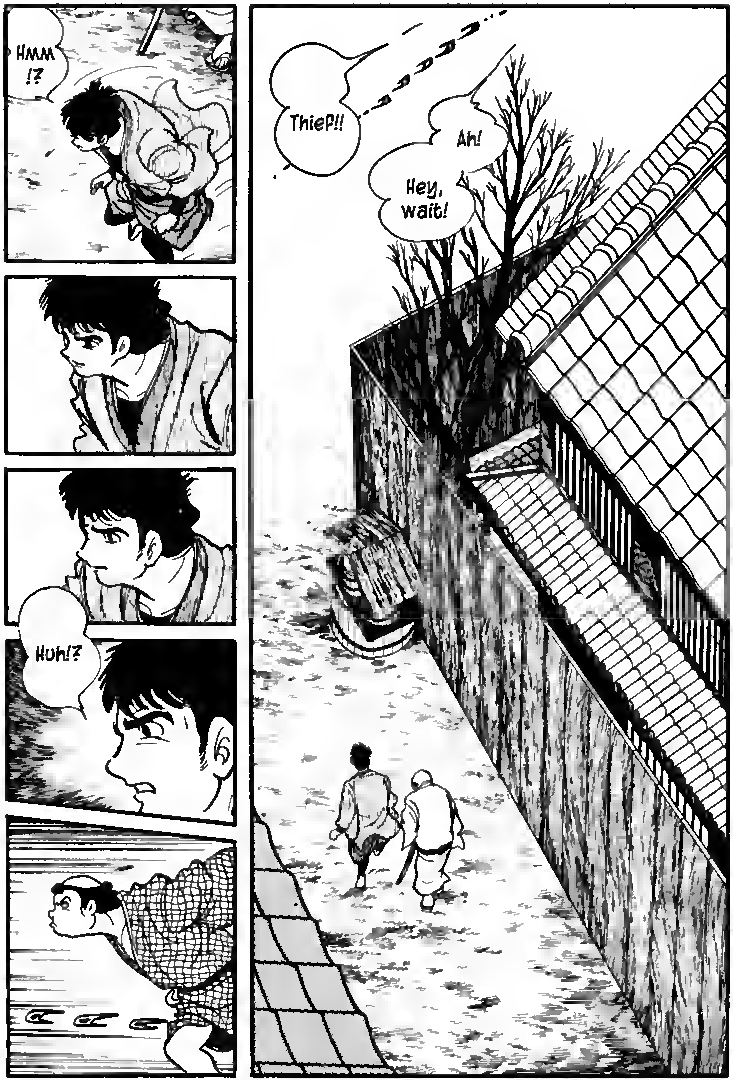
B-Bro Ginpei...
did it. again!?
...He's done it!!

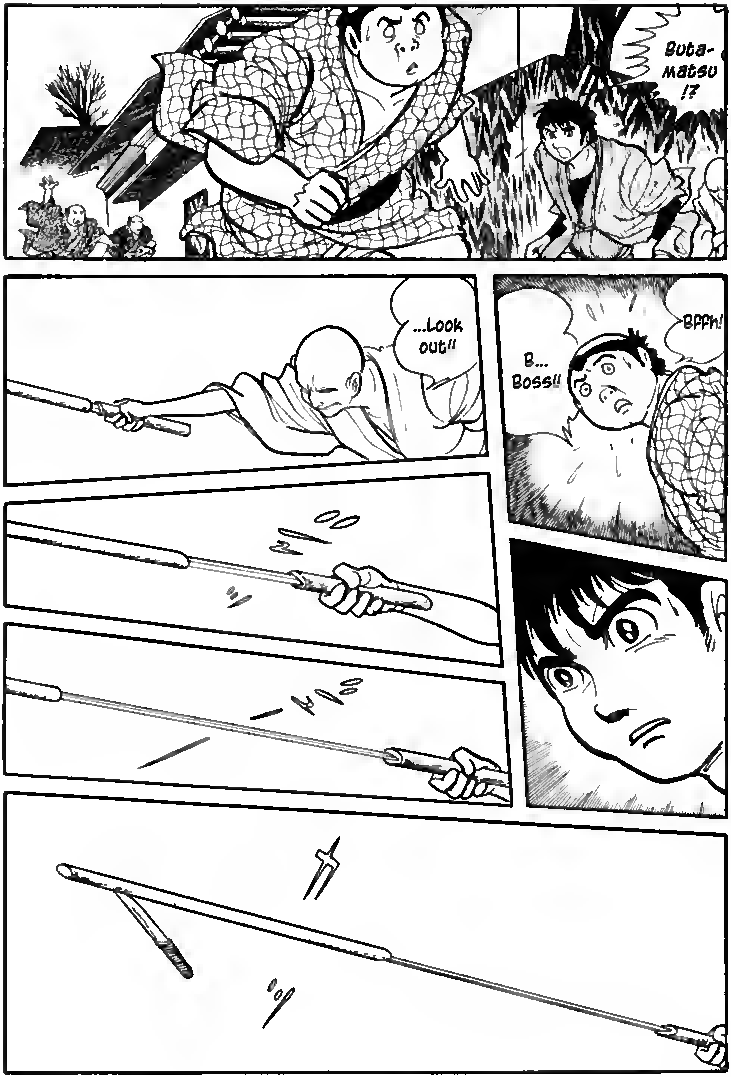


...Tch, this place is damper than I thought...!
...Here's... five ryo... in advance..
You idiot, what good is convincing gonna do!?
...I still... haven't convinced my daughter..
I'll leave my stamp on this contract..
...and I'll have fifteen ryo ready when you give me your daughter
.....
...God-d...mmit!
W...Well, of course I do, but...
...Don't you want it...? Well... mister?

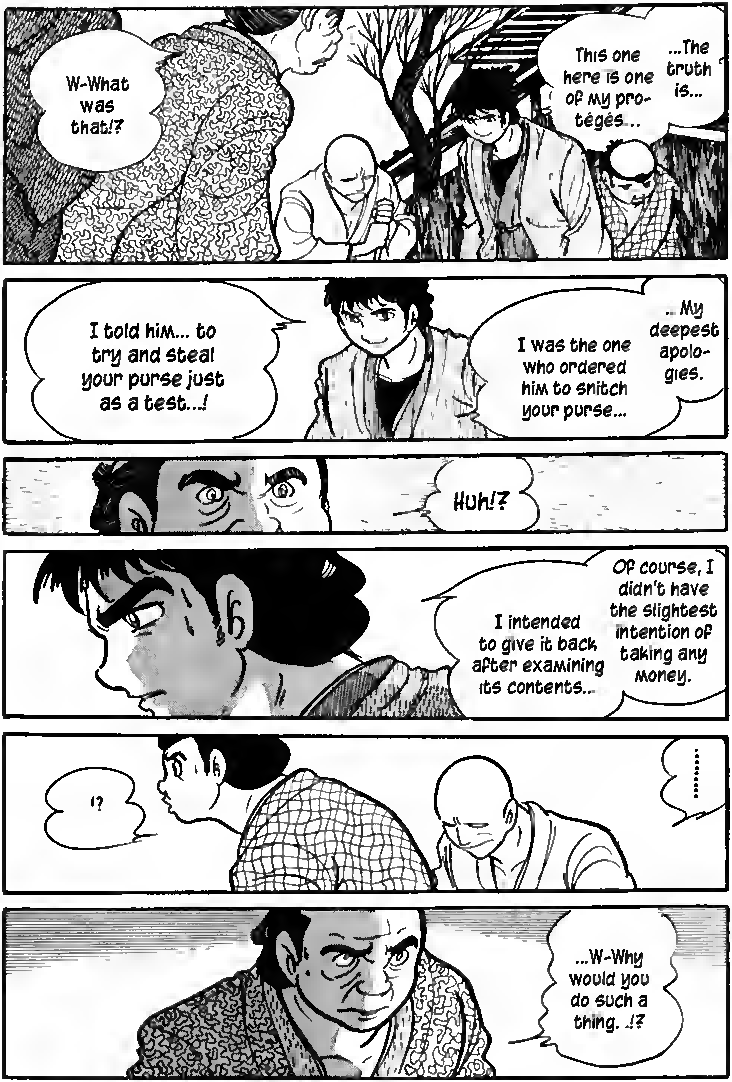

....HMPF!

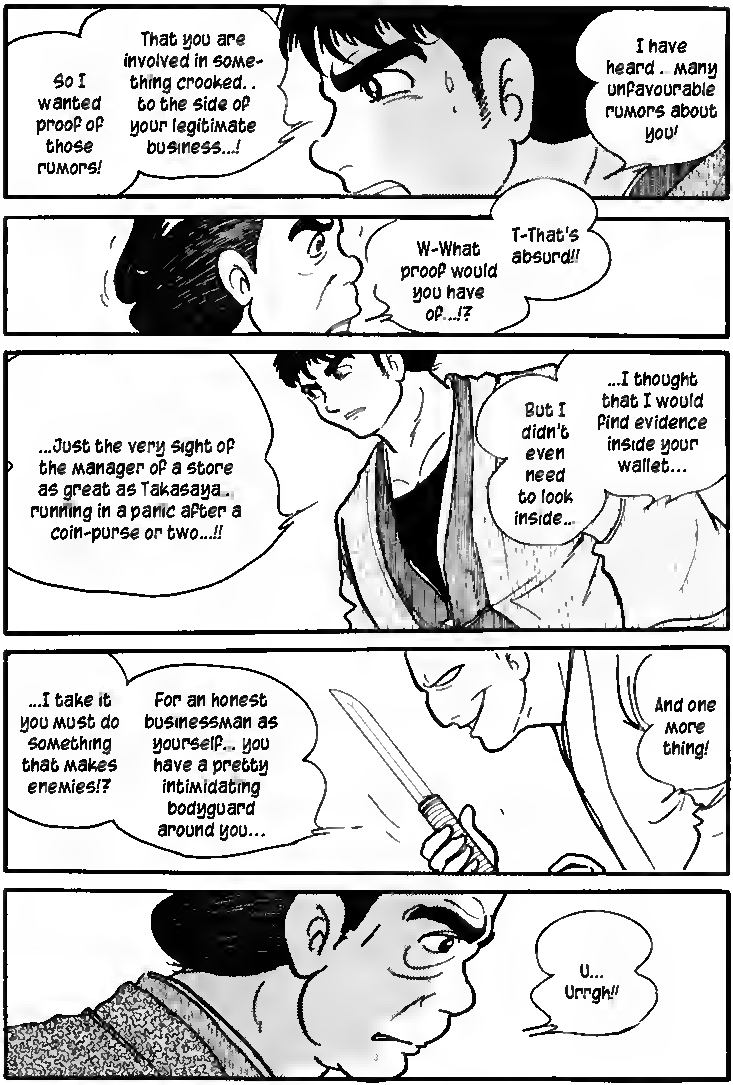
...Don't you worry... It'll work out.
...So he must've taken the money or else Kayo would be sold off...!!
Bro Gimpei... was smitten with Kayo next door...!
...Oh, yeah, that's right...!


HMM
!?
Thief!!
Ah!
Hey, wait!
Huh!?


Buta-Matsu!?
...Look out!!
B... Boss!!
BPPh!

ﾋｭｰ
ﾄﾝ
...I know...
Huh?
.....
..I am Takasaya's...
H.. Hey, Boss.. You came just in the nick of time!


W-What was that!?
This one here is one of my protégés...
...The truth is...
I told him... to try and steal your purse just as a test...!
I was the one who ordered him to snitch your purse...
...My deepest apologies.
Huh!?
I intended to give it back after examining its contents...
Of course, I didn't have the slightest intention of taking any money.
!?
.....
...W-Why would you do such a thing..!?


I have heard.. many unfavourable rumors about you!
That you are involved in something crooked.. to the side of your legitimate business...!
So I wanted proof of those rumors!
T-That's absurd!!
W-What proof would you have of...!?
...I thought that I would find evidence inside your wallet...
But I didn't even need to look inside..
...Just the very sight of the manager of a store as great as Takasaya.. running in a panic after a coin-purse or two...!!
And one more thing!
For an honest businessman as yourself... you have a pretty intimidating bodyguard around you...
...I take it you must do something that makes enemies!?
U... Urrgh!!

So... Why don't we turn a blind eye to each other... and I give you the purse back without looking inside..
and we leave it at that...!!
...I may have done it for the law . but I've brushed up against the law myself!
.. What do you say, sir...?
.....
.....
Give it back, Buta-matsu!!

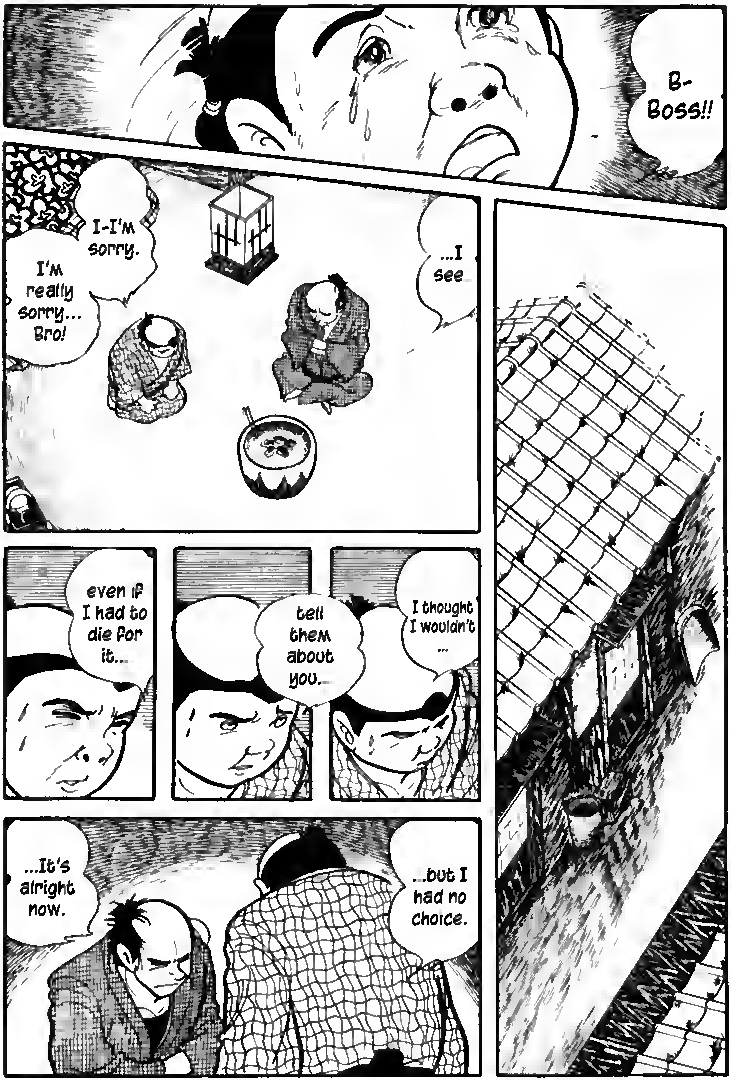
You idiot!!
Sabu!!

Squeal!
B-Boss, seeing how he took your deal, there must be something behind...

...Come with me!!

Otherwise I'd have to bring you in!
and that the bluff I came up with worked like I thought it would..
...You're damn lucky that I had heard rumors of Takasaya..
G-Give me your forgive-ness! Pardon me!
No... That's not all!
This time... I would really have to give my truncheon back to Sir Tanabe for good!!
I-I'm sorry... P-Please forgive me, Boss!!
did you do this again ...?
I warned you against this... So why...
Urgh. You bas-tard...
Urrgh... N-No, that's not it!
But... It's the most I can give... and I thought it would be enough for you to survive...!!
I know that it's not easy to live off.
I know.. that I may not give you very much money

Tell Me!!
Huh?
What was it For!?
IF you didn't do it because you wanted money to burn, then what was it For?
That's not it at all!
I-I... I...!!
.....
Now, now, now, Sabu...
Never show your face before me again!
...I'm cutting you off permanently...
Buta-Matsu, See, you can't tell me, can you...!
.. Sob.. Sob ..
Come now, Buta!
...Let's go, Ichi...!


B-Boss!!
I-I'M sorry.
I'M really sorry... Bro!
...I see
even if I had to die for it...
tell them about you...
I thought I wouldn't ...
...It's alright now.
...but I had no choice.

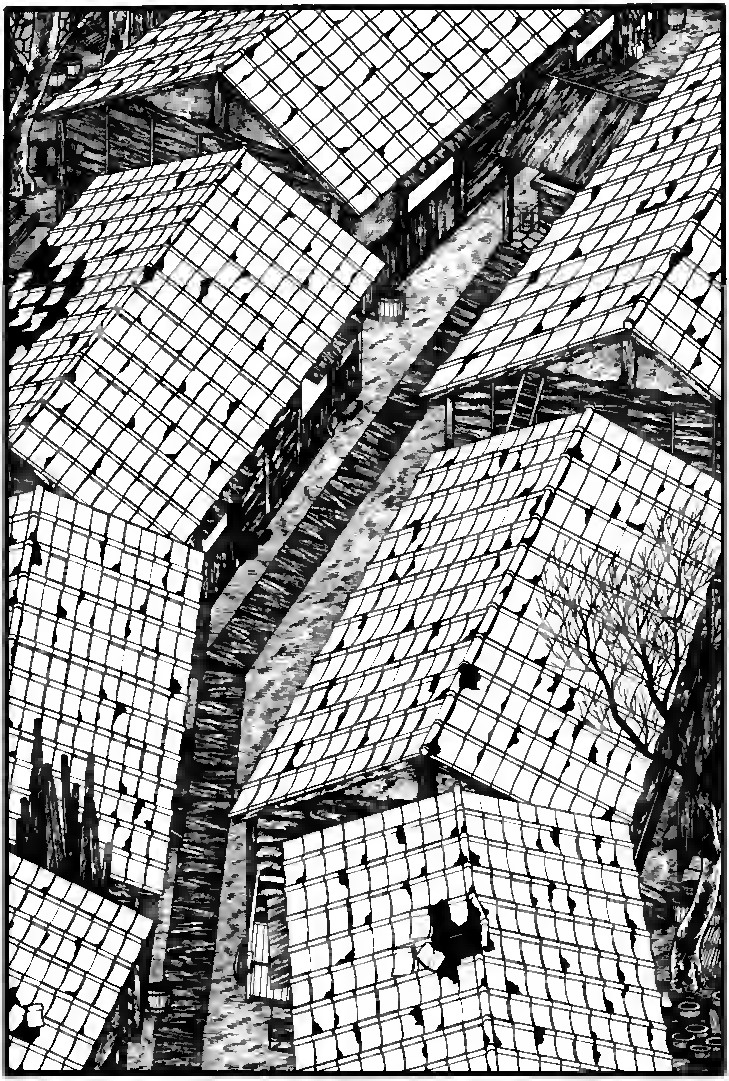
We... I mean, I have done something terrible to Bro Sabu...
Putting your hand in someone else's purse, no matter the reason .. it's wrong!
The boss is right.
B-But...
...So.. So Boss said to bring you to him...!
No, I'm not going!
Never again!
I'm not going!
...I...
And apologize to him for me .. for repaying his good with evil!
...and send the Boss my regards.
..But why don't you go...
I can't quit something partway.
still have things I have to do
Go now!!
B-Bro!
.....

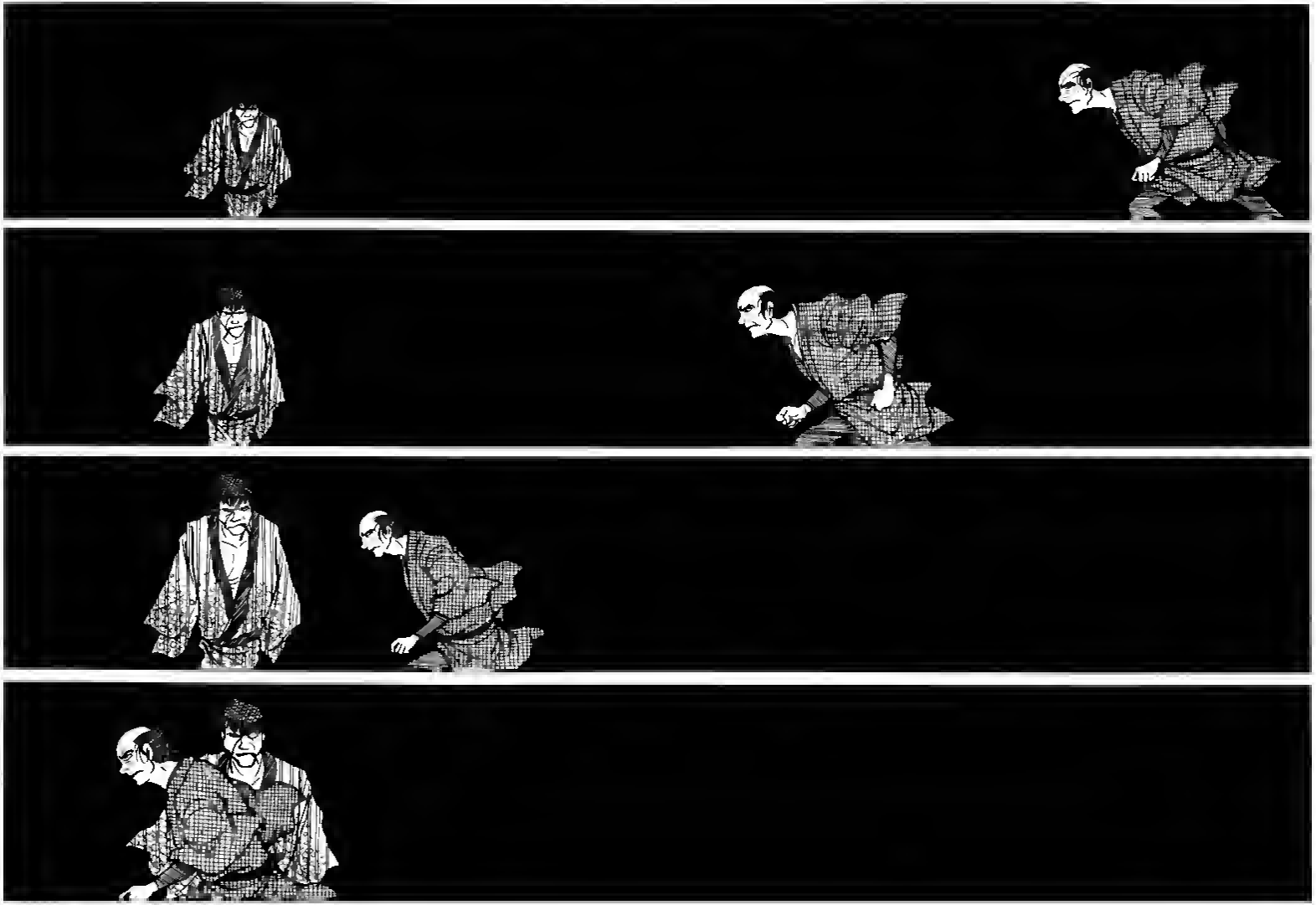
You're such an idiot! ...Always meddling in my business...
Bro!!
Buta-Matsu!
.....
ニュ〜〜〜
B-Boss!
There's trouble!!
What is it, Buta-Matsu!?
Where's Ginpei ...!?

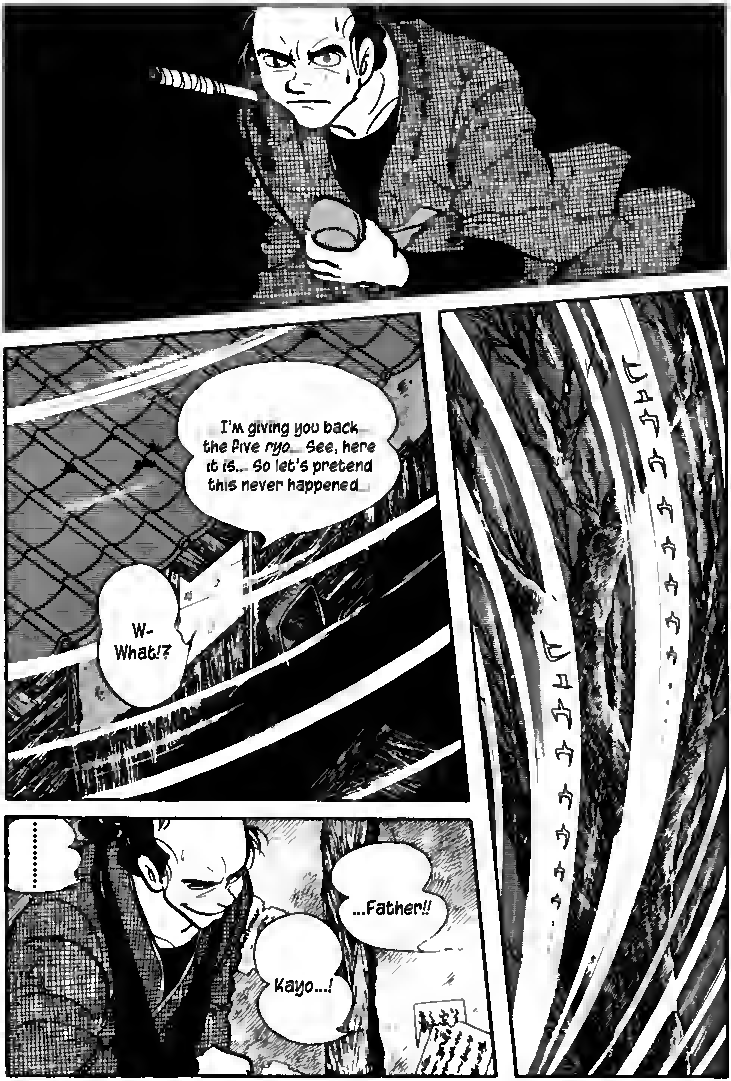
B-Bro Ginpei is going to steal his money before he can!!
The procurer... is coming tonight to take Kayo away!
N...Not coming
H-He's gonna do it... until the end ..!!
What!?
H-H-H ..He's really good at throwing daggers!!
B-But that procurer is named Dosutatsu .. and he's the guy that tried to kill me this afternoon!!
That means... that Takasaya's underground business... is prostitution!
.. So that's how it is!
Huh ...!?
...Unless he pays the money and signs the contract . he's protected by law!
By law, that is!!
But we can't take him in with that alone

B-Boss!
I. .Is Bro planning to d-d-die..!?
You block-head!
You're just a stubborn blockhead!
...W-What Gimpei is doing... I-I guess I can't say it's smart...
B-But if he has to do it... it may as well be from people who make crooked money without getting their hands dirty...!!
S-So isn't there something we can...
He may be pickpocketing, but it's from... quite a terrible business...
Just shut up!
I know all that already!!

木枯が吹いて冬がきた






I'm giving you back the five ryo... See, here it is... So let's pretend this never happened...
W-What!?
...Father!!
Kayo...!

Huh!?
ガラ
ヒュルルル……
B... Bro!?
.. Ginpei, were you planning on journeying somewhere?
Do you...
not want to be my subordinate anymore!?
……

...Heh hehe he...
Bro, about Kayo...
...And won't there be a girl who'll be sad if you're gone?
Huh?
Baka-matsu!
Huh?
Bro!

木枯が吹いて冬がきた

T-Then why did you...!?
...He's an apprentice from Tagaya... And they love each other to the death...
ふふふ…
ヒュ ふふふ…
Come on! Let's all go grab a drink!!
You got it, Boss!!
ふけ

November 1971: "The Wintry Wind Blows and Winter Comes" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 71
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
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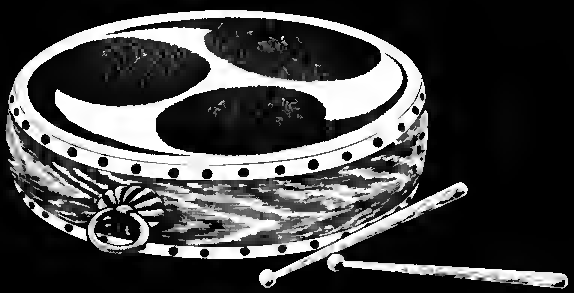
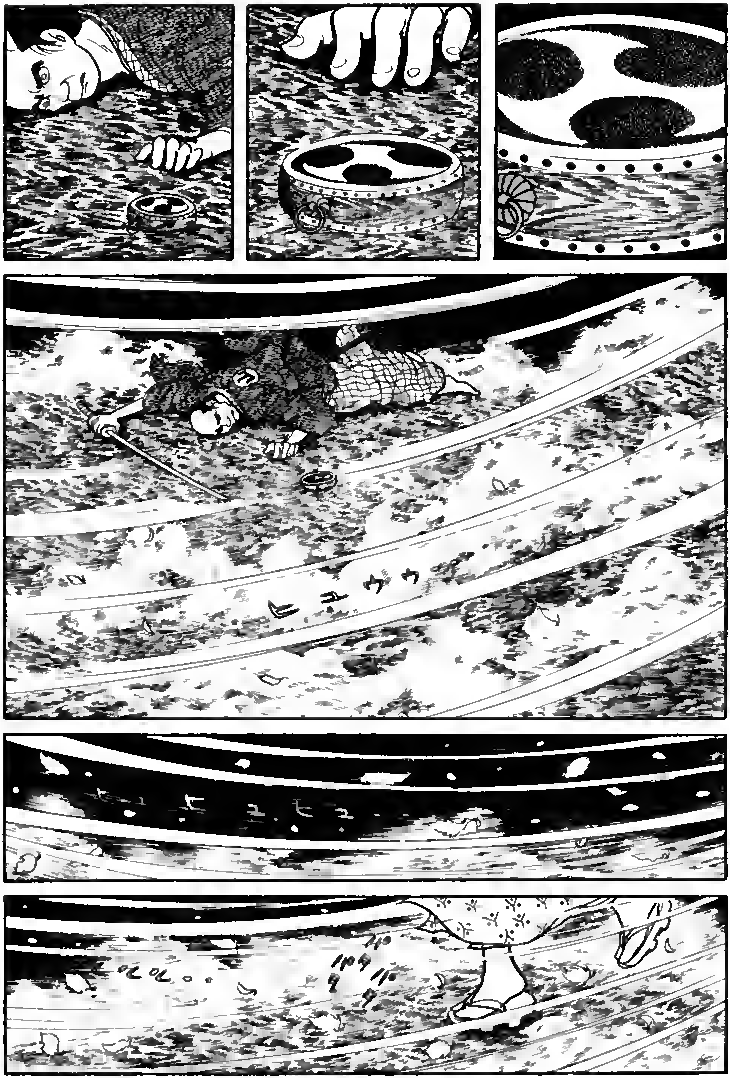
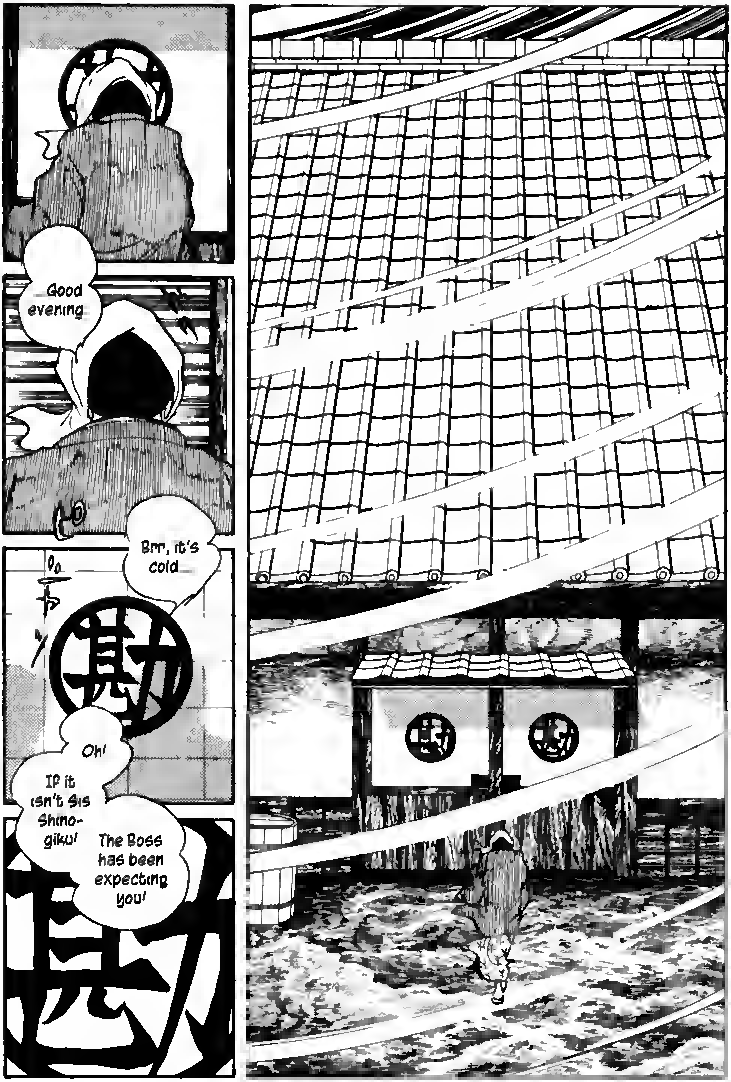
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 72: What Did You Get As a Souvenir to Hell!?

Sleep, baby, sleep,
Go to sleep
Little boy, where did
Your guardian go?
He crossed the mountains
To his village
What did you get as a
souvenir from the village?
A pellet drum
And a *sho* flute



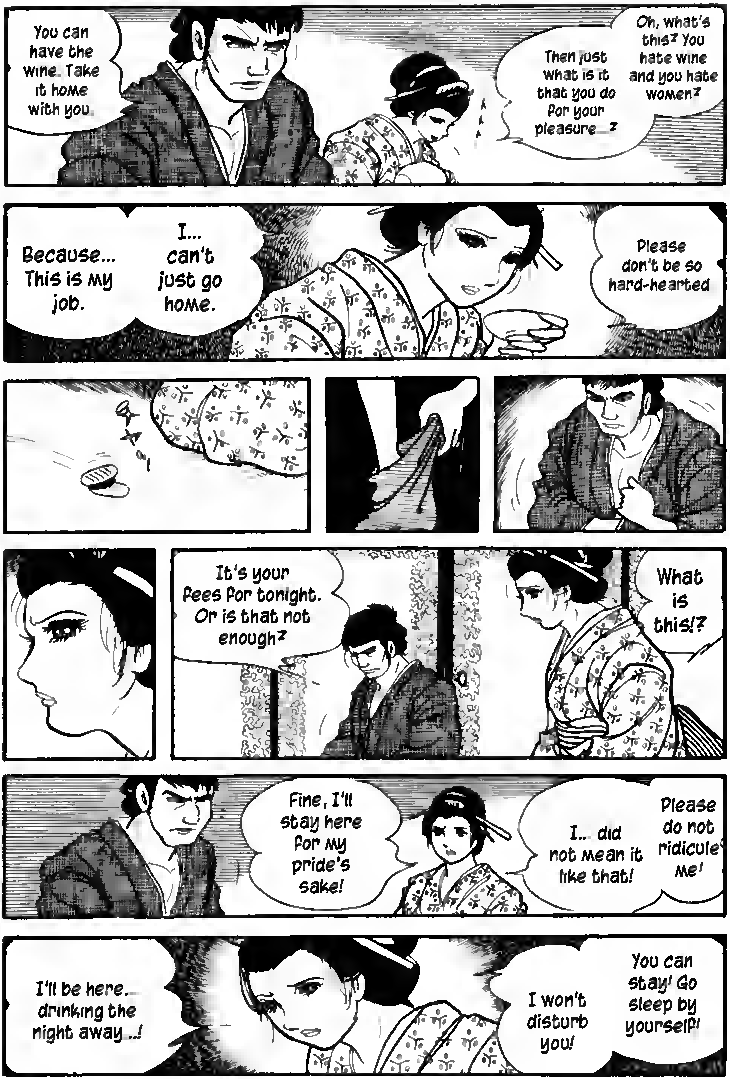

ヒュウウ

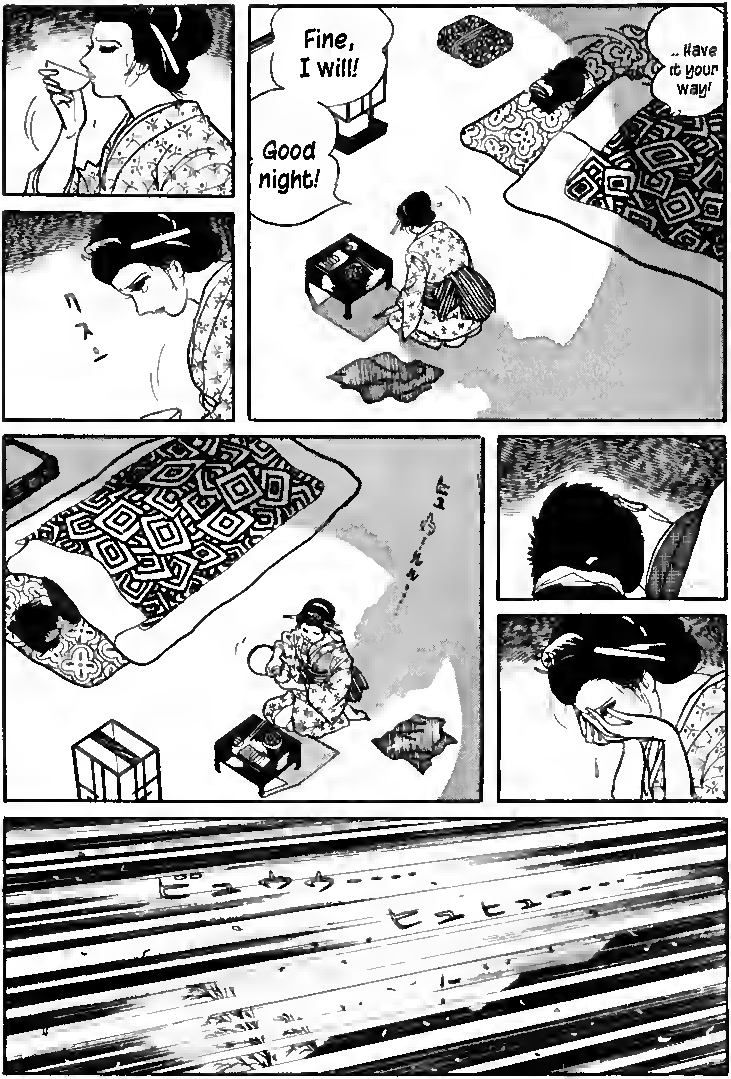

Good evening
Brr, it's cold
Oh!
If it isn't Sis Shino-giku!
The Boss has been expecting you!

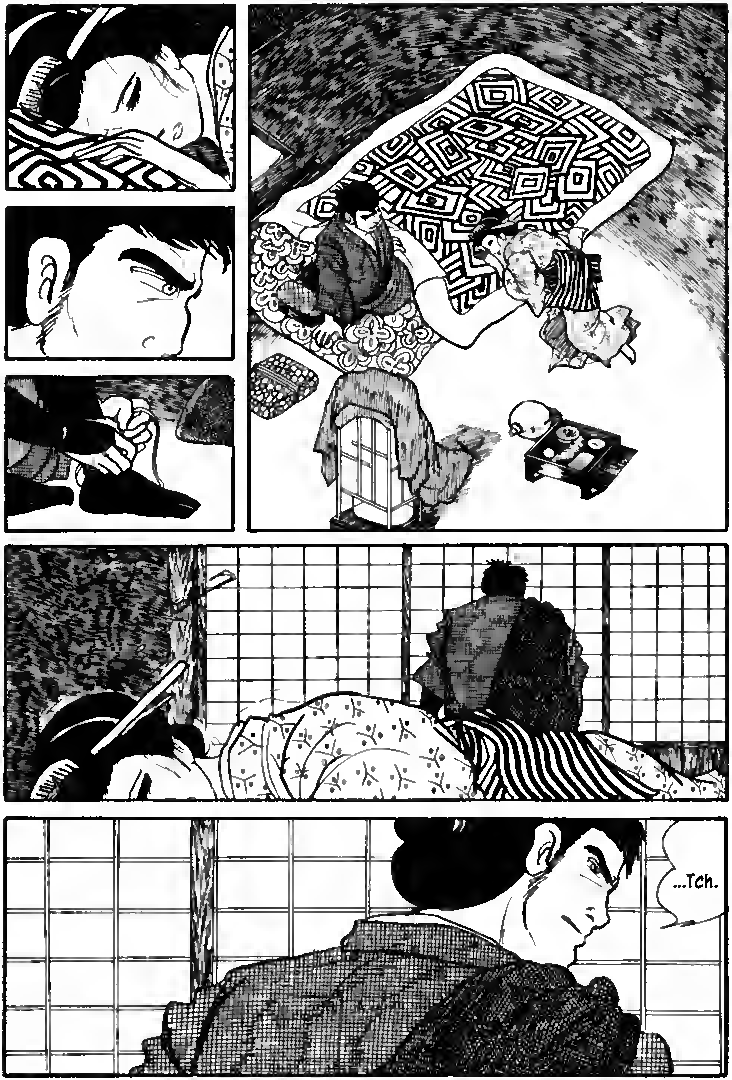
Well, don't go making yourself comfortable! Our customers... are already waiting in their rooms!
Now, go to them right away!
My, why can't you let me have a cup of tea first? I've just come in from the cold!
What's the deal?
Why are you so late!?
I'm sorry.
I had an obstinate customer
Whoa, whoa
Besides, there's already some wine ready in the room
Hehhe.. Well, you'll be warming up again soon, aren't you!?
My, oh, my...
Pardon me...
..May I come in?

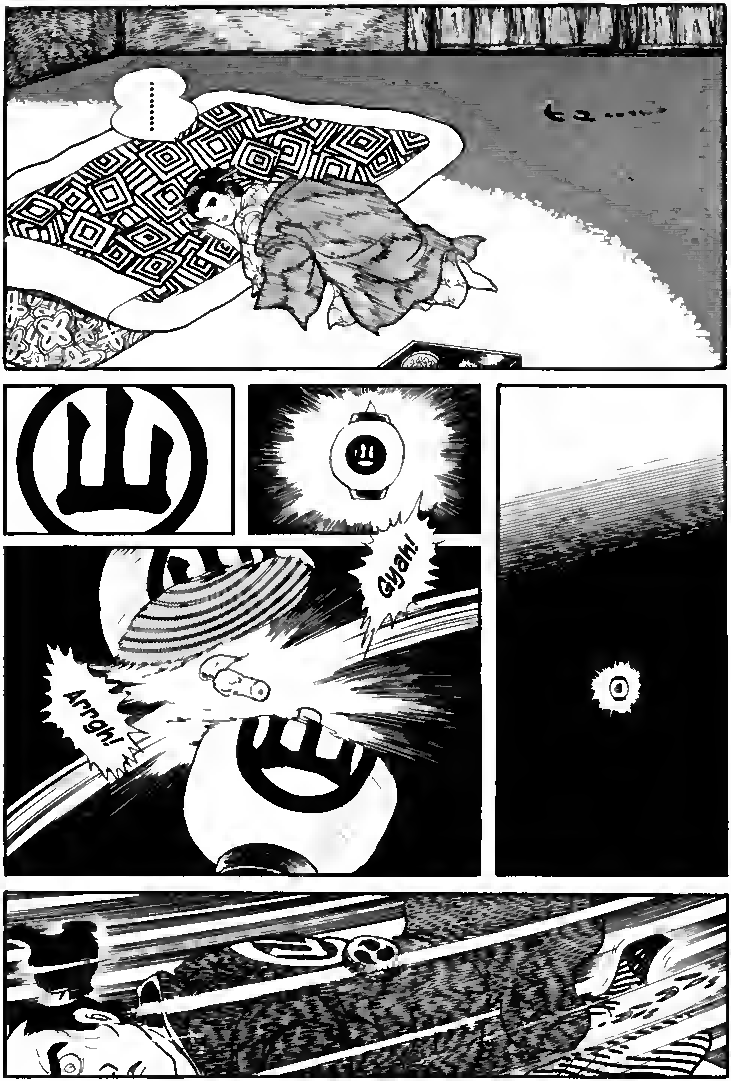
My name is Shimogiku... It's a pleasure to meet you
I was supposed to have come sooner, but I ended up being late...
I am sorry to have kept you waiting for so long
Huh...?
Oh,
.. do you need?
What...
I usually have more ..
Why, you're quite a young customer, aren't you?
Didn't my boss tell you anything!?
...Oh, please!
You mean you don't know who I...!?
Huh?
Save your breath!!
...I'm... under my Boss' orders to keep you...
Teehee-heehee .. My apologies...

..Sir... do I not suit your fancy..?
Huh?
B-But...
Go home!
I have no need for that..
ヒュ・・・
No .. I just want to sleep alone tonight!
ヒュウ・・・
Huh ...?
I just hate the sound of the wintry wind...!
I... don't drink.
You haven't touched this at all, have you!?
...Huh?
I'M chilled straight to the..
Mind if I have a drink?


You can have the wine. Take it home with you.
Then just what is it that you do for your pleasure...?
Oh, what's this? You hate wine and you hate women?
Because... This is my job.
I... can't just go home.
Please don't be so hard-hearted
It's your fees for tonight. Or is that not enough?
What is this!?
Fine, I'll stay here for my pride's sake!
I... did not mean it like that!
Please do not ridicule me!
I'll be here... drinking the night away...!
I won't disturb you!
You can stay! Go sleep by yourself!

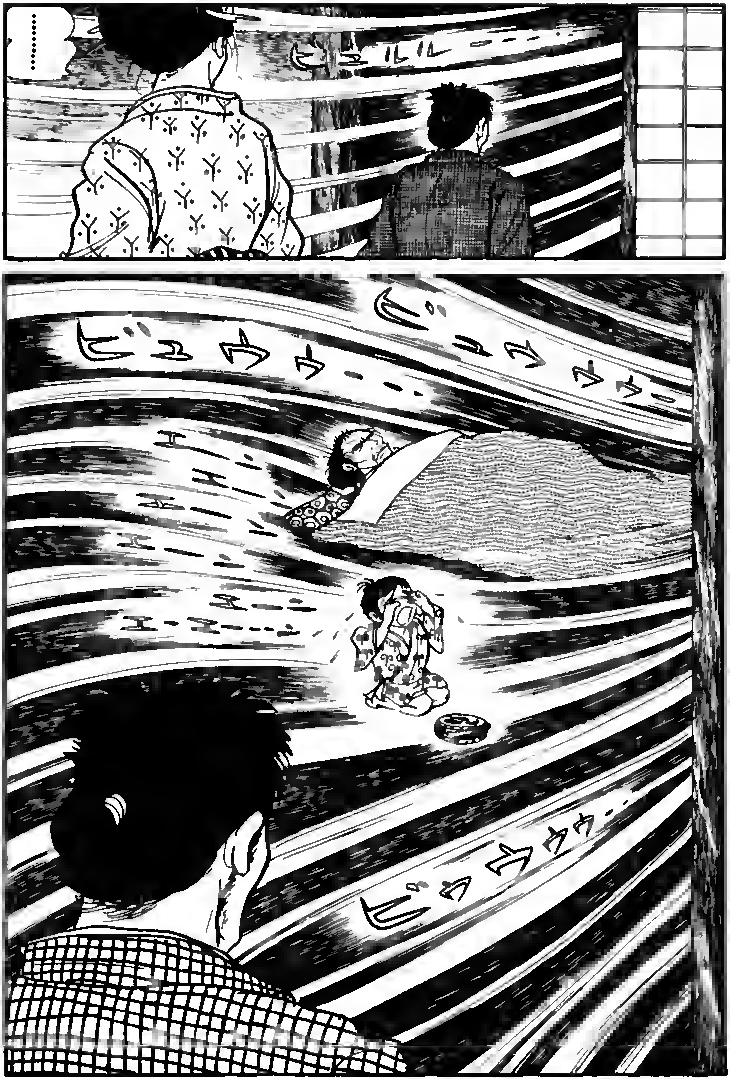

Fine, I will!
Good night!
.. Have it your way!
ハスー
ヒューーーん…
ヒュウウーーー、
ヒュヒューー

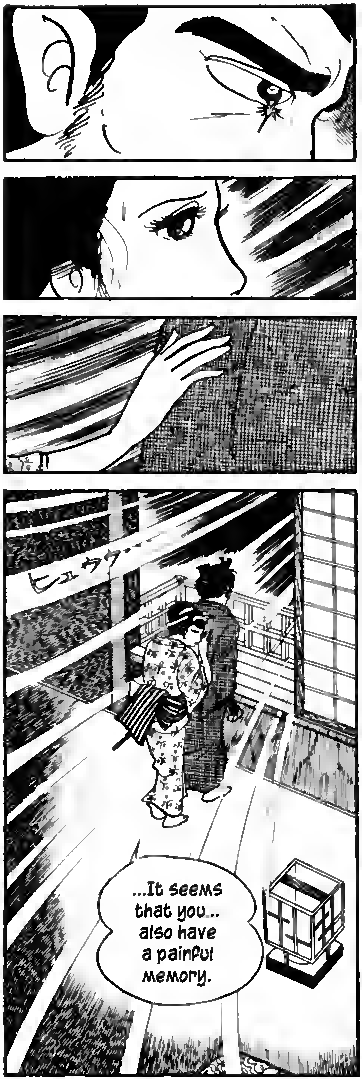

...Tch.


……
山
Gyah!
Arrgh!

... Welcome back.
You're still around? I told you I have no need of you!
If you are still here,
then I will have to change rooms...!
Wait!
Please!
At least let me see to your needs ..
...I beg you!
. just for the time that you are sojourning here ..!
..I have fallen for you...!
And .. I myself think it strange ..
...I suppose hearing this would make you hate me all the more...

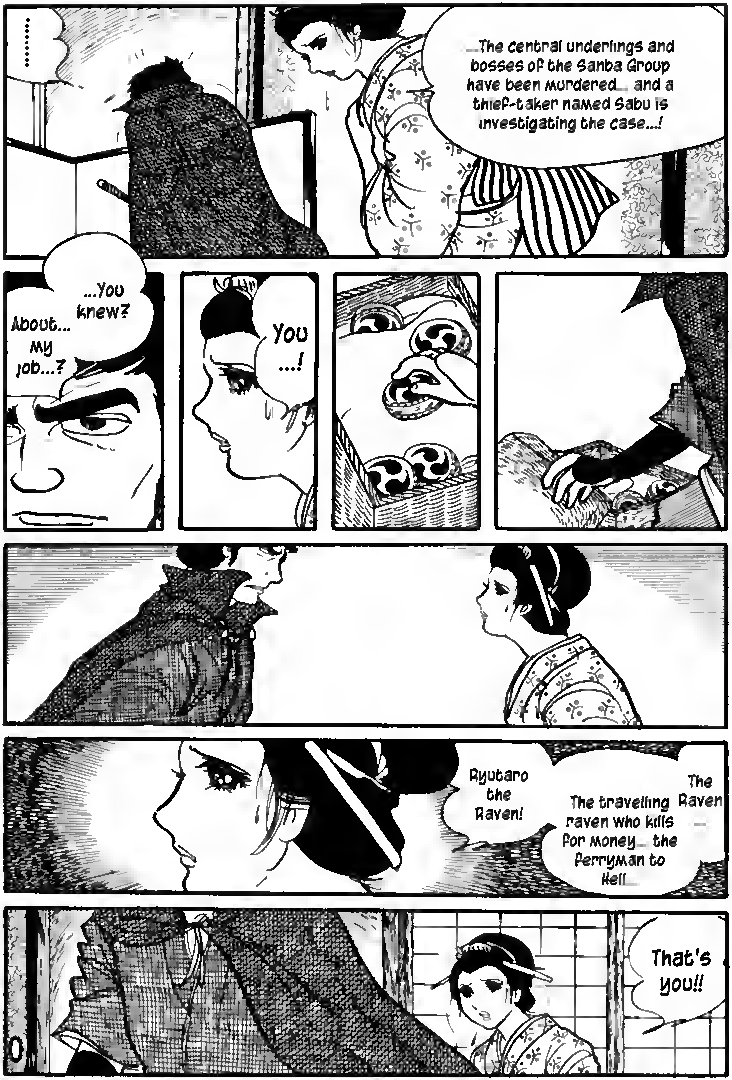
But... I was forced into a situation where I had to leave him...
And I was finally together with him!
I loved him... I loved him... I truly loved him...
...I didn't want to leave him!
But my feelings are true!
..It could be that you remind me of the husband that threw me out...
Ah!
I suppose this means you will...
I was not meaning to do so...
I-I'm sorry... for bothering you with my personal stories..
.....

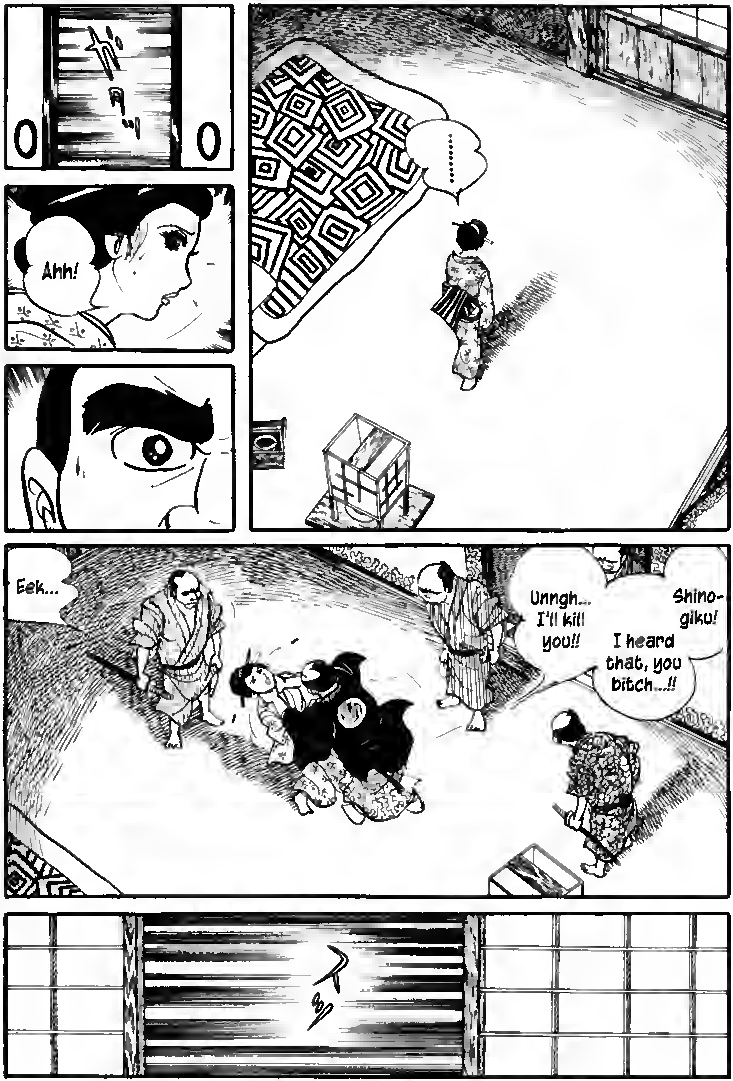

……
ヒュルルルーー
ビュウウウーー
ビュウウウーー


...Dammit, dammit! W-What a horrible woman! She's... a demon!!
ヒュウウ…
...It seems that you... also have a painful memory.

I-It must have dropped somewhere!
It's gone!
Hmm!?
... Damn it all!
...Damn, until I leave it here, I can't...
ヒューウウー

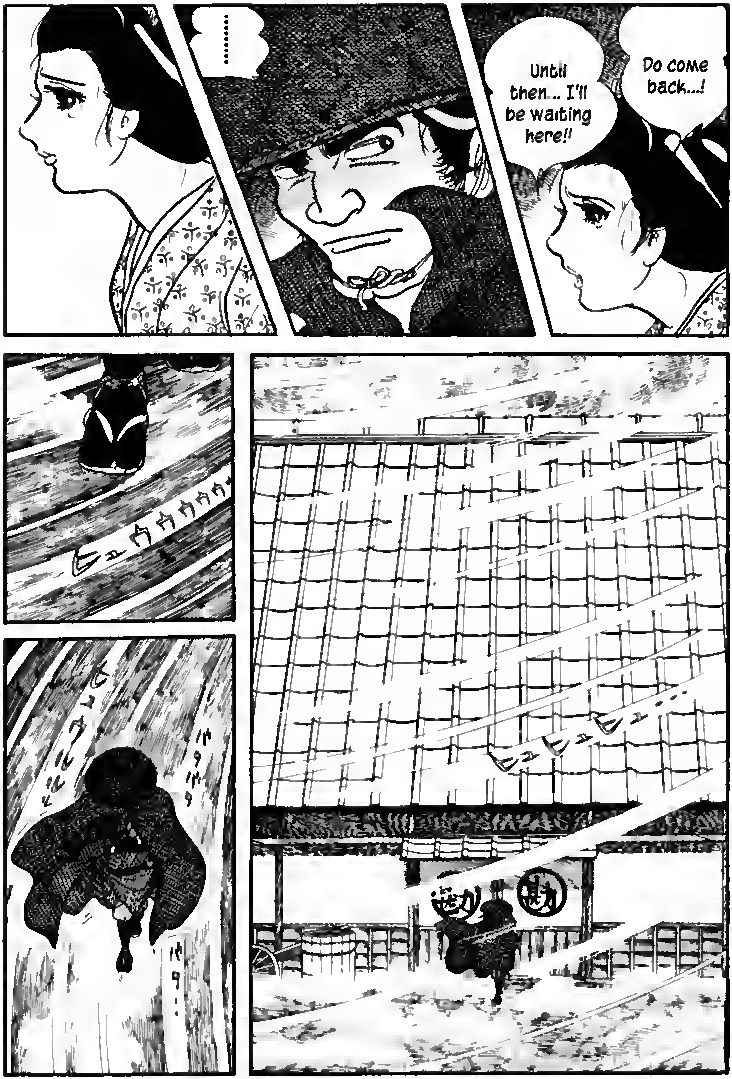
You!!
ヒュウー…
...Hmm!?
ヒュウウウ…
Hmm?
Not yet!
..Is your job over yet!?
What!?
Then... Once it's done, don't come back!
Thank goodness!
I overheard something!
My boss was talking about killing you once your job was finished..!!

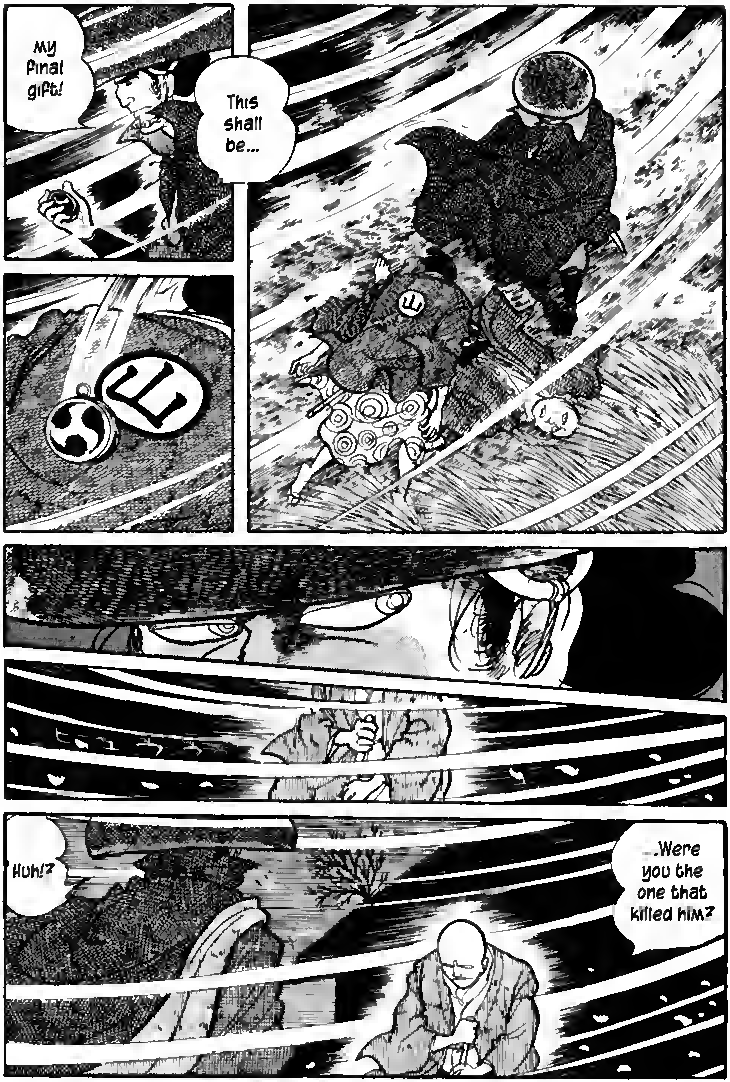

.....
...The central underlings and bosses of the Sanba Group have been murdered... and a thief-taker named Sabu is investigating the case...!
...You knew? About... my job...?
You ...!
Ryutaro the Raven!
The Raven — The travelling raven who kills for money... the Perryman to Hell...
That's you!!


Ahh!
.....
Eek...
Unngh... I'll kill you!!
Shino-giku!
I heard that, you bitch...!!

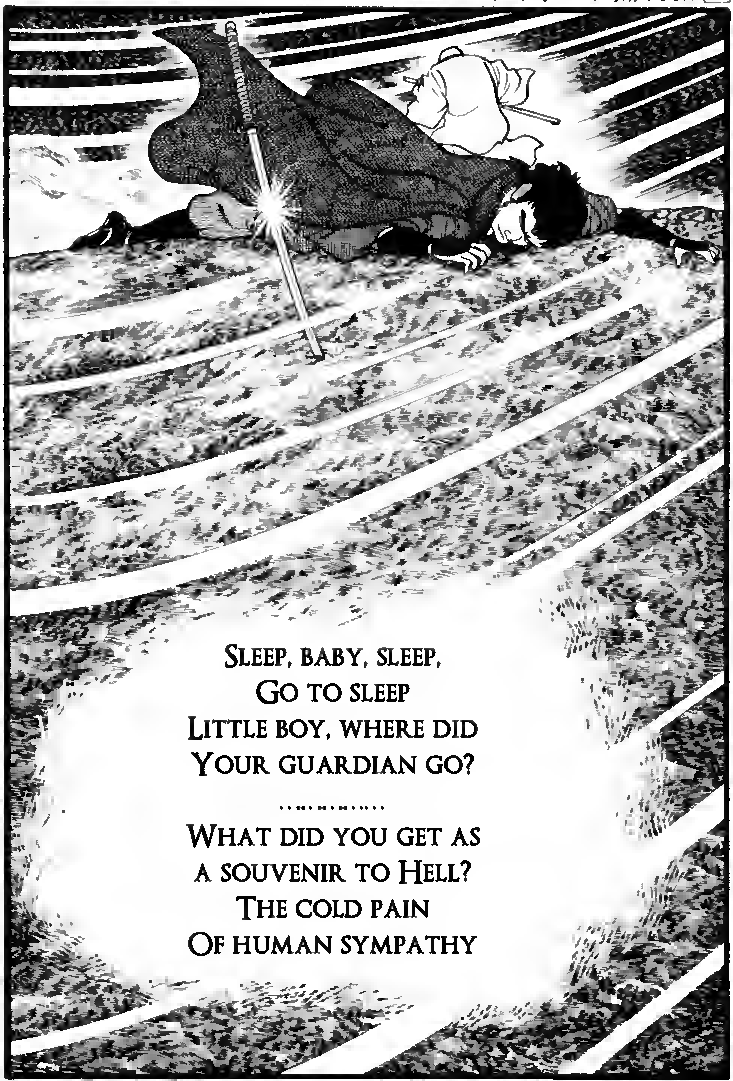
Wawa-aaugh!
Raven...
Y-You...!?

W-Wait! Where are you going!?
I still have a job unfinished ... that I have to go back and complete.
That's not it!
B-But you shouldn't have to do anything for them now, do you!?
Come back!!
T..Take me with you!
T-Then.. Once that's over...
I had feared this would happen... so I turned back!
Y-You... Ryu-taro!!


……
Until then... I'll be waiting here!!
Do come back...!
ヒュウウウウ
ヒューヒュー…
バラバラ
バラ…


My final gift!
This shall be...
...Were you the one that killed him?
Huh!?

You're quite unlucky... that it was me who happened by!
and I found you!
I noticed the smell of blood,



December 1971 "What Did You Get As a Souvenir to Hell?" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 72
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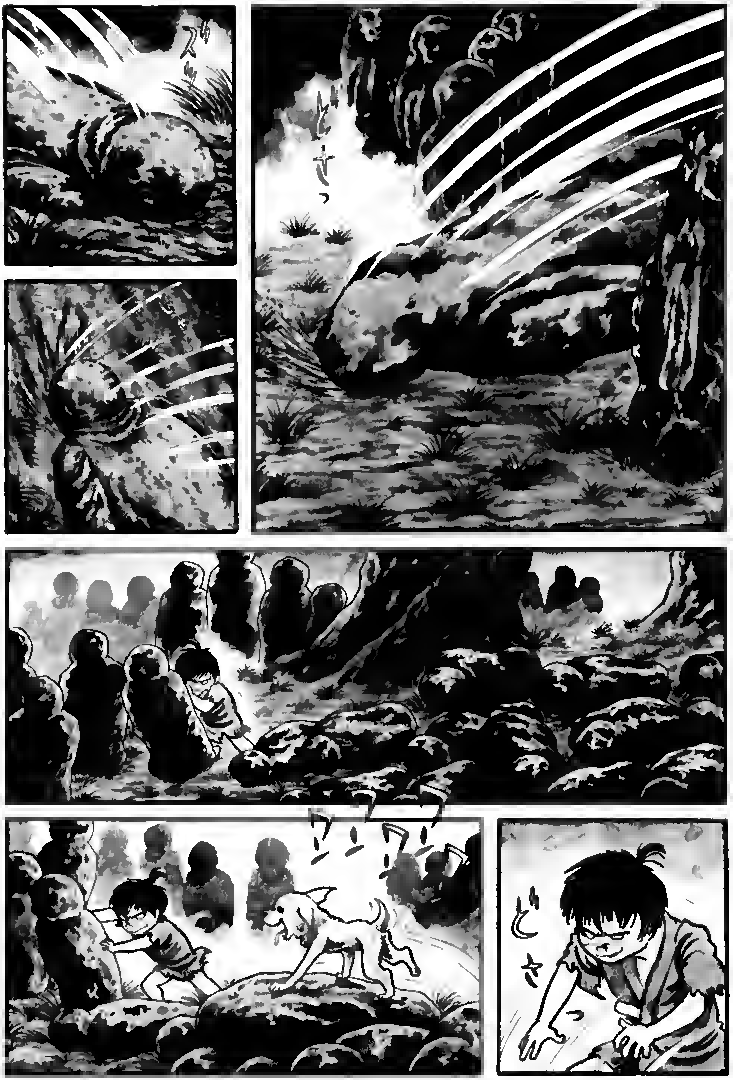
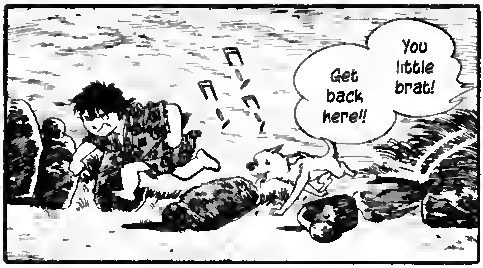
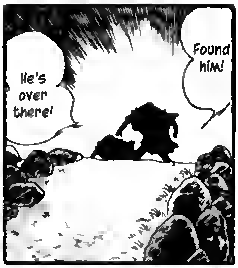
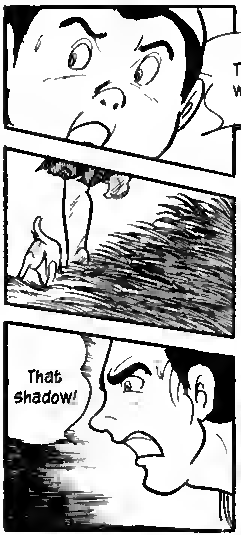
Chapter 73: Folk Songs in the Children's Limbo

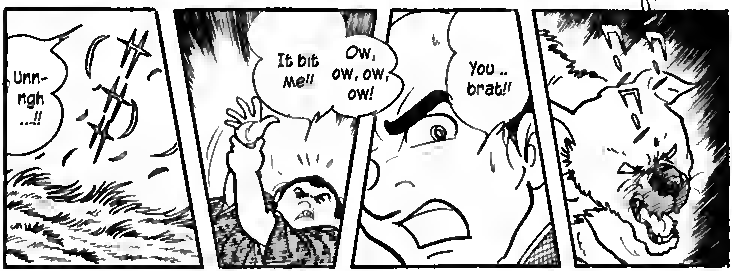

ズサ
どすっ
ワンワン
ばさっ

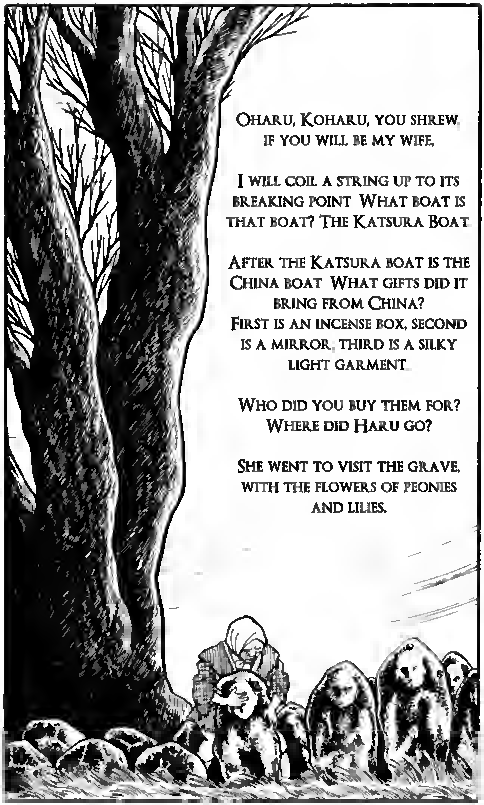




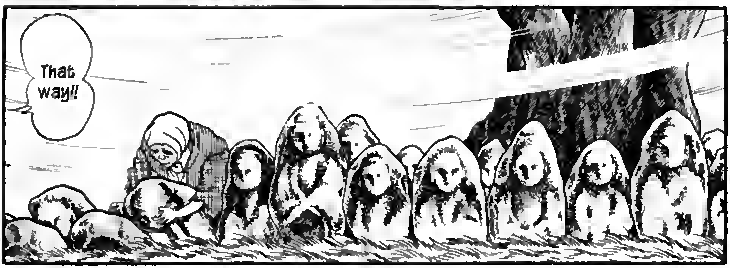


THE MONKEY KING OF THE MOUNTAINS
REALLY LOVES TO WEAR BRIGHT RED CLOTHES,
TETESHAN TETESHAN
LAST NIGHT I WAS CALLED OUT TO THE MEETING OF EBISU,
THERE WAS SEA BREAM SOUP, AND LITTLE BREAM GRILLED IN SALT
I SIPPED ONE BOWL, SIP, SIP, SIP
I SIPPED TWO BOWLS, SIP, SIP, SIP
ON THE THIRD BOWL I WAS ANGRY THAT THERE
WERE NO APPETIZERS
DEAR ME, DEAR ME, DEAR, DEAR, DEAR ME



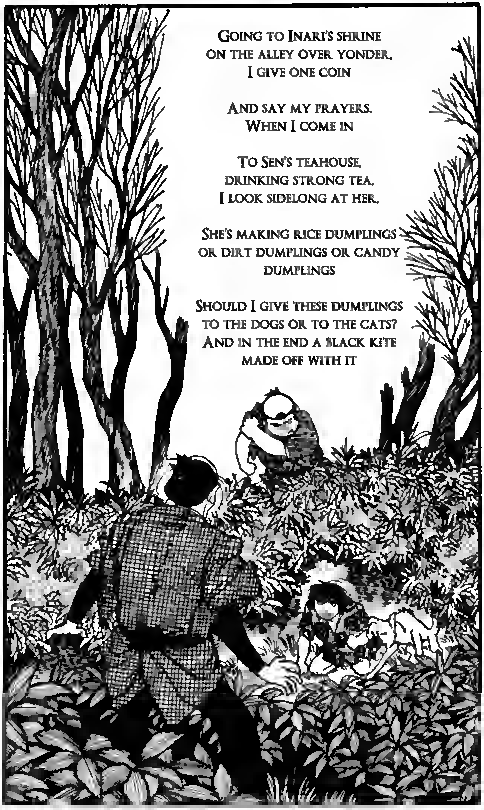

OHARU, KOHARU, YOU SHREW
IF YOU WILL BE MY WIFE,
I WILL COIL A STRING UP TO ITS BREAKING POINT WHAT BOAT IS THAT BOAT? THE KATSURA BOAT
AFTER THE KATSURA BOAT IS THE CHINA BOAT WHAT GIFTS DID IT BRING FROM CHINA?
FIRST IS AN INCENSE BOX, SECOND IS A MIRROR, THIRD IS A SILKY LIGHT GARMENT
WHO DID YOU BUY THEM FOR? WHERE DID HARU GO?
SHE WENT TO VISIT THE GRAVE, WITH THE FLOWERS OF PEONIES AND LILIES.

He got away!


That way!!

T-T-T... Thief!!
Eeeek!
God-dammit!!
What happened? What'd ha snatch!?
M...My package of sushi... Ric... Ahhh...
You want Food...? Then get some yourself!
ガツ ガツ
ハッハッ
クゥーン
クゥーン
クゥーン

Shhh!
Keep quiet!

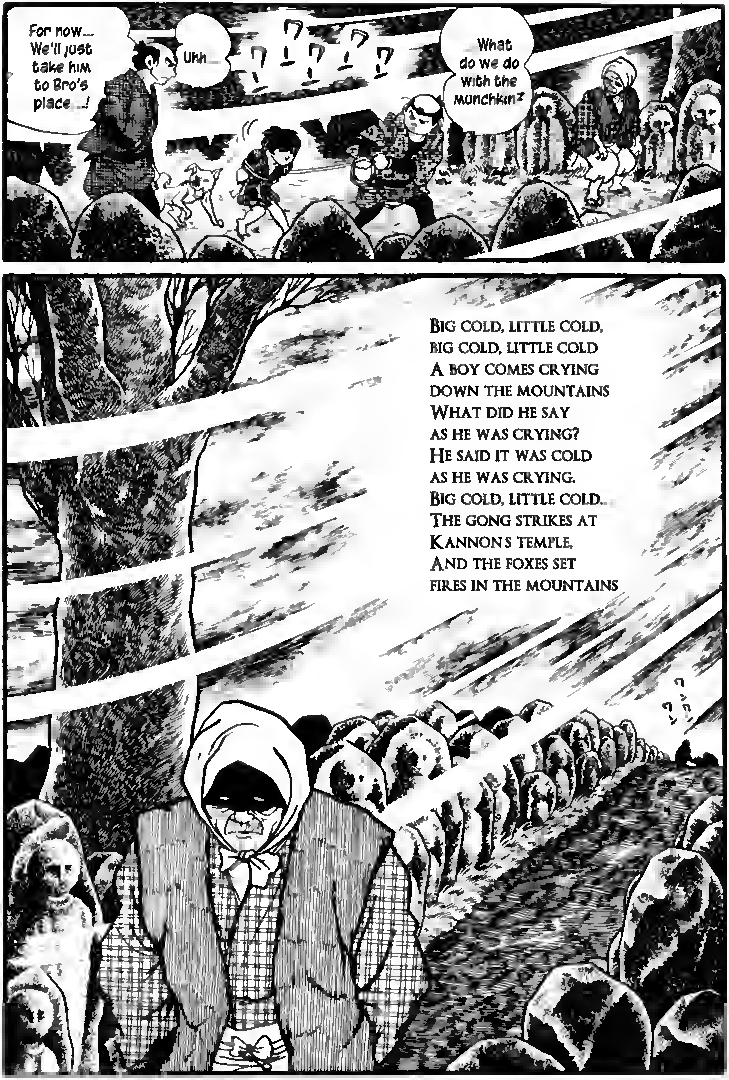

Going to Inari's shrine
on the alley over yonder,
I give one coin

And say my prayers.
When I come in

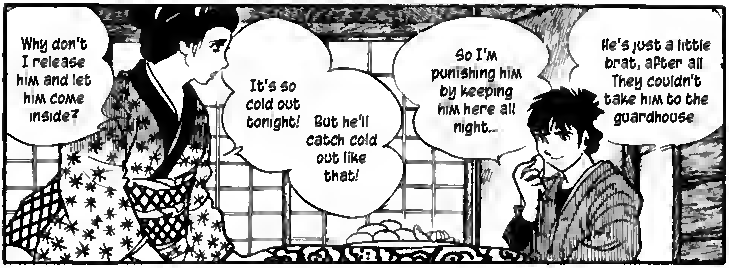
To Sen's teahouse,
drinking strong tea,
I look sidelong at her.

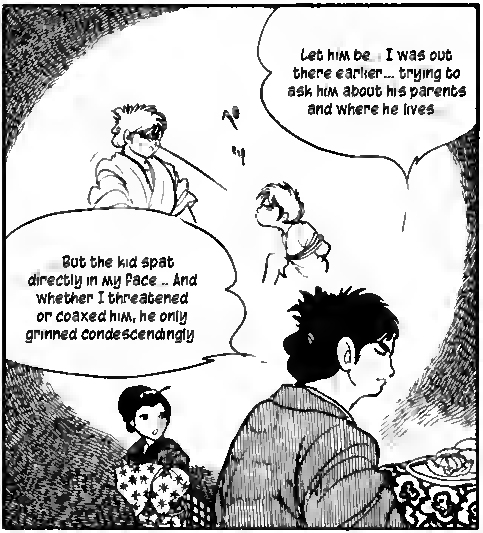
She's making rice dumplings
or dirt dumplings or candy
dumplings

Should I give these dumplings
to the dogs or to the cats?
And in the end a black kite
made off with it


For now... We'll just take him to Bro's place...!
Uhh...
What do we do with the munchkin?
BIG COLD, LITTLE COLD,
BIG COLD, LITTLE COLD
A BOY COMES CRYING
DOWN THE MOUNTAINS
WHAT DID HE SAY
AS HE WAS CRYING?
HE SAID IT WAS COLD
AS HE WAS CRYING.
BIG COLD, LITTLE COLD..
THE GONG STRIKES AT
KANNON'S TEMPLE,
AND THE FOXES SET
FIRES IN THE MOUNTAINS

Burn moxa on the eyeball of a frog, And if it still wants to jump, let it jump
He hit passers-by on the legs and head with a club... and made off with their purses!
Huh...?
Oh, you know...
What exactly did that child do?
.. Hey, Dear,
They caught him, but didn't know how to deal with him so they brought him here!
That Gin and Buta-matsu.
Hehhe...
Oh, my


He's just a little brat, after all. They couldn't take him to the guardhouse.
So I'm punishing him by keeping him here all night...
But he'll catch cold out like that!
It's so cold out tonight!
Why don't I release him and let him come inside?

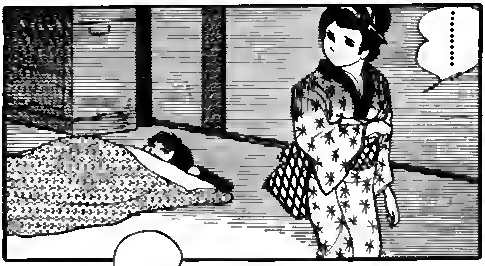

Let him be... I was out there earlier... trying to ask him about his parents and where he lives.
But the kid spat directly in my face... And whether I threatened or coaxed him, he only grinned condescendingly.

Whoa,
No, that won't do.
He's not your typical prankster!

But...
We can't just leave him like that!

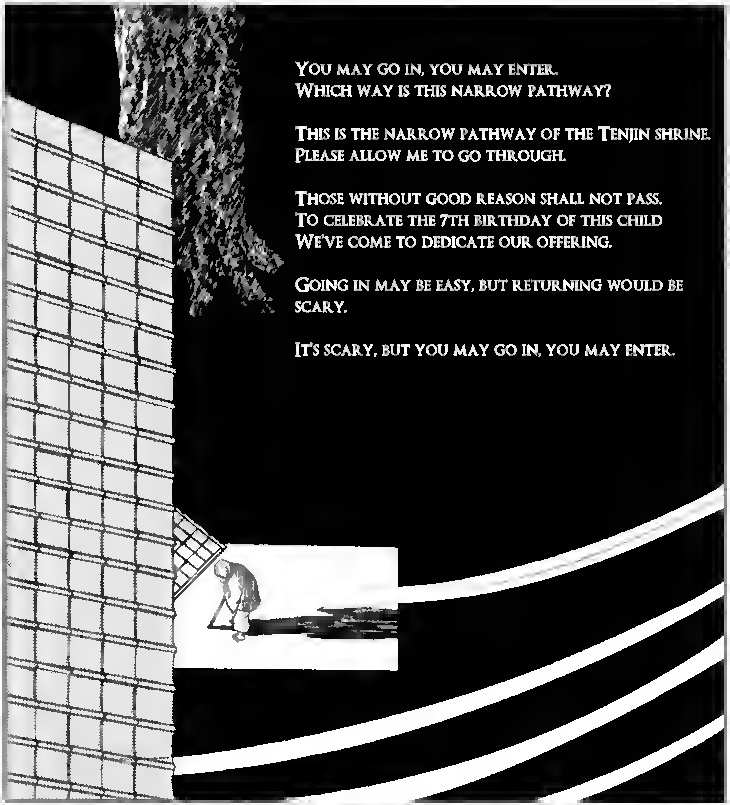
You're not supposed to threaten him!
I'm sure that boy's just deprived of compassion...
And I think he'll behave if you treat him kindly...!
Don't bother. He's not a kid that you can handle...
And don't come running to me if something terrible happens.

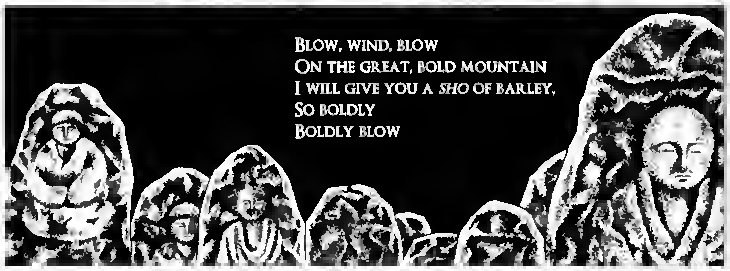
EARTHWORM, EARTHWORM,
STICK OUT YOUR HORN, STICK IT OUT
IF YOU WON'T STICK IT OUT,
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE GOVERNOR'S
AND HAVE YOUR HEAD CUT OFF



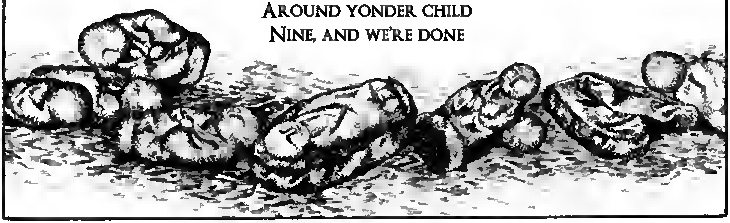
COME, COME, FIREFLY
COME, COME, COME SEE
THE MOUNTAINS
COME AND SEE THE LIGHT
OF THE LANTERN
W-W-W...
Whoa!?
FIRST IS A RATTLE, SECOND IS PHEASANT'S EYE
THIRD IS A MANDARIN TREE, FOURTH IS AN ASTER TREE
FIFTH IS A GINGKO TREE, SIXTH IS A PURE LOTUS
SEVENTH IS A HEAVENLY BAMBOO,
EIGHTH IS A DOUBLE-BLOSSOMED CHERRY TREE
NINTH IS A LITTLE APRICOT TREE,
AND WE STOP AT TEN THE SAWYER SAWS
EIGHT KINDS OF WOOD IN THE MOUNTAINS
BUT STARTS WITH A RATTLE
Dammit!!
H-He did it!!

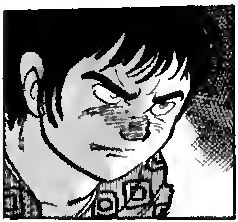
...Huh!?
WHY DOESN'T THE TADPOLE TIE ITS HAIR? WHY DOESN'T THE TADPOLE TIE ITS HAIR? IT DOESN'T BECAUSE IT HAS NO OIL AND CORDS
What a slippery little shit!!
..God-dammit, he's nowhere to be found!
Sob... Sob...
I...I'm pitying the child's heart.. that's this twisted...!!
I. .I'm not crying from regret...!
...Are you still up?
What's going on? What happened here?
Sabu?


YOU MAY GO IN, YOU MAY ENTER.
WHICH WAY IS THIS NARROW PATHWAY?
THIS IS THE NARROW PATHWAY OF THE TENJIN SHRINE.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GO THROUGH.
THOSE WITHOUT GOOD REASON SHALL NOT PASS.
TO CELEBRATE THE 7TH BIRTHDAY OF THIS CHILD
WE'VE COME TO DEDICATE OUR OFFERING.
GOING IN MAY BE EASY, BUT RETURNING WOULD BE SCARY.
IT'S SCARY, BUT YOU MAY GO IN, YOU MAY ENTER.


BLOW, WIND, BLOW
ON THE GREAT, BOLD MOUNTAIN
I WILL GIVE YOU A *SHO* OF BARLEY,
SO BOLDLY
BOLDLY BLOW

COME ONE
COME TWO
COME AND SEE
COME CLOSER
WHENEVER YOU COME AND SEE,
WE'LL TIE A SILK SASH
AROUND YONDER CHILD
NINE, AND WE'RE DONE





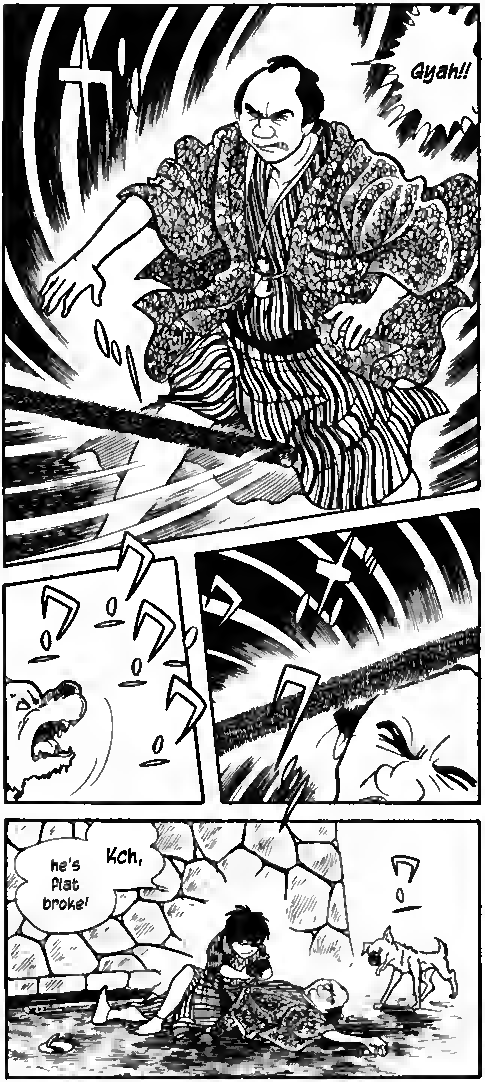
HOW OLD ARE YOU, MOON? THIRTEEN AND SEVEN
STILL PRETTY YOUNG

AFTER THAT CHILD IS BORN, WHOM SHALL I EMBRACE?
I WILL EMBRACE OMAN

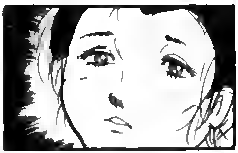
WHERE DID OMAN GO? TO BUY OIL, TO BUY TEA.
SHE SLIPPED IN FRONT OF THE OIL STORE AND SPILLED
A *SHO* OF OIL.

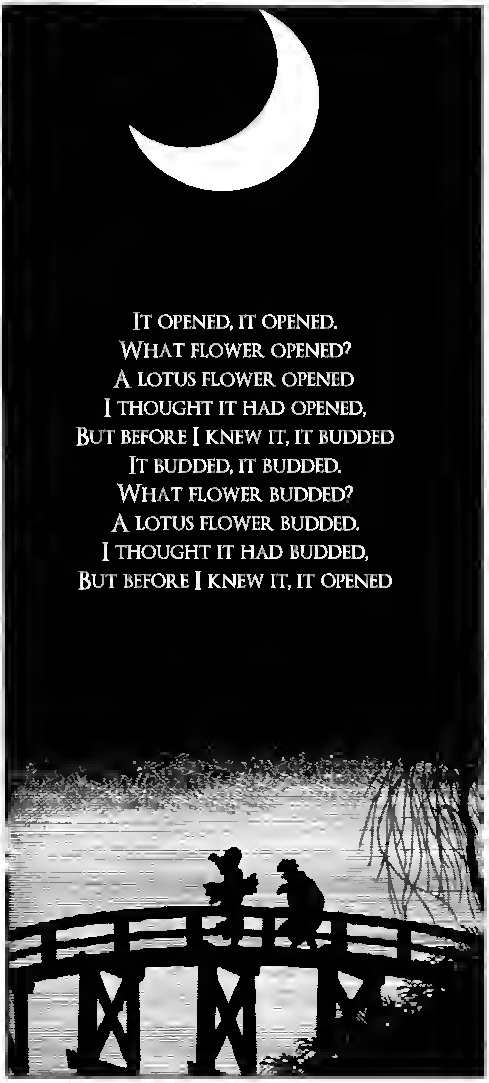
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OIL? TARO'S DOG
AND JIRO'S DOG, THEY ALL LICKED IT UP
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DOGS? THEY TIED THEM
ON THE DRUMS

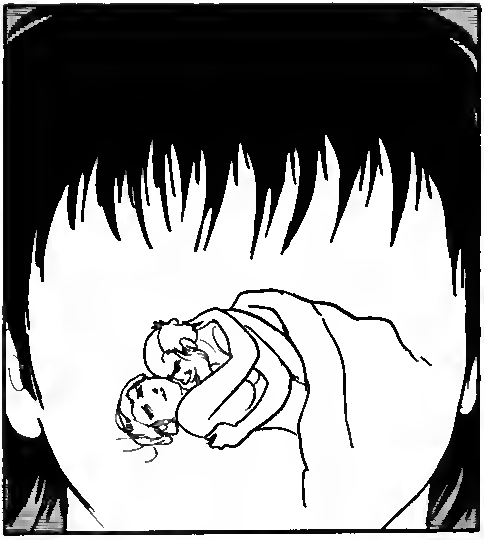
FACED THIS WAY, BANG, BOOM BANG
FACED THAT WAY, BANG, BOOM, BANG
AND THEY BEAT THEM TO DEATH


Gyah!!
Kch,
he's flat broke!
LITTLE SNAIL, LITTLE SNAIL THERE IS A FIGHT IN THE BATHHOUSE
SO GET OUT YOUR HORNS, GET OUT YOUR SPEARS, GET OUT YOUR LACQUER BOX

I didn't notice till later... but he made off with one of my knives when he ran away from my house!
...You'd better damn well find him
What a rotten little brat!!
...So considering him... you think he'll murder someone...!?
DRAGONFLY
DRAGONFLY
RED DRAGONFLY
He did it again!
...That little shit!
These types always show up... after something like a fire...
...No clue
What the hell is wrong with him?
I never seen... a kid like him!
WHERE ARE YOU?
IN HIGO. WHERE'S HIGO?
IN SENBA. ON MT. SENBA.
THERE ARE RACOON-DOGS
AND THE HUNTER
SHOT ONE WITH A GUN
BOILED IT, FRIED IT,
AND ATE IT
THEN HE HID IT UNDER
THE LEAVES OF A TREE



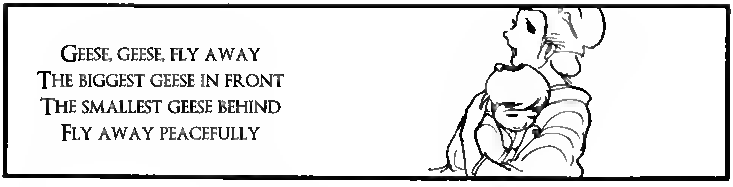

It opened, it opened.
What flower opened?
A lotus flower opened
I thought it had opened,
But before I knew it, it budded
It budded, it budded.
What flower budded?
A lotus flower budded.
I thought it had budded,
But before I knew it, it opened

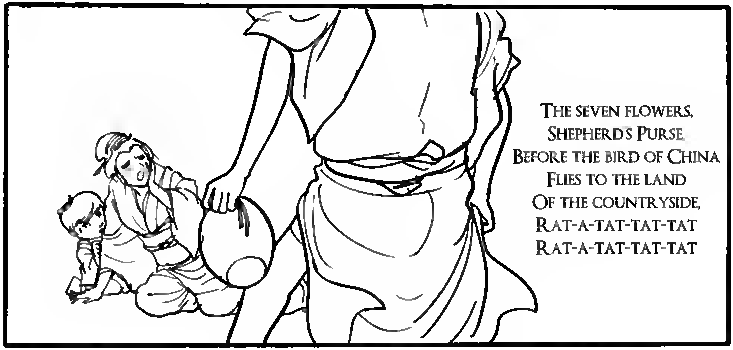


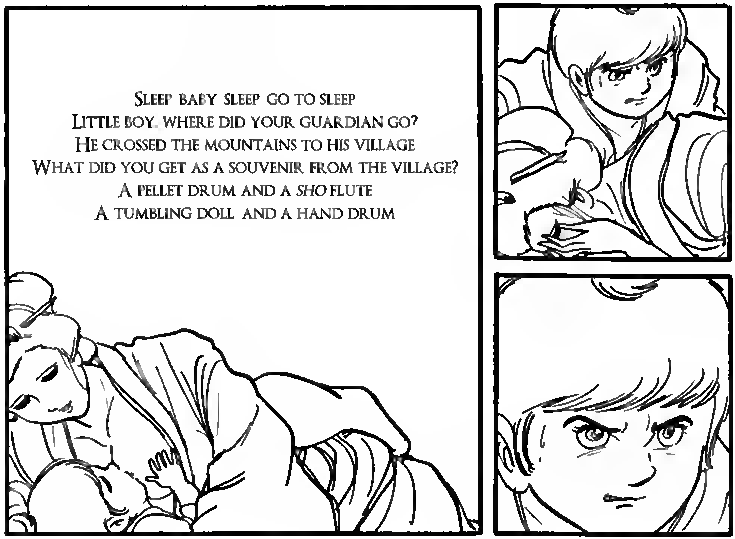
RABBIT, RABBIT,
WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING AT?
THE FULL MOON
IS WHAT I AM
LOOKING AT

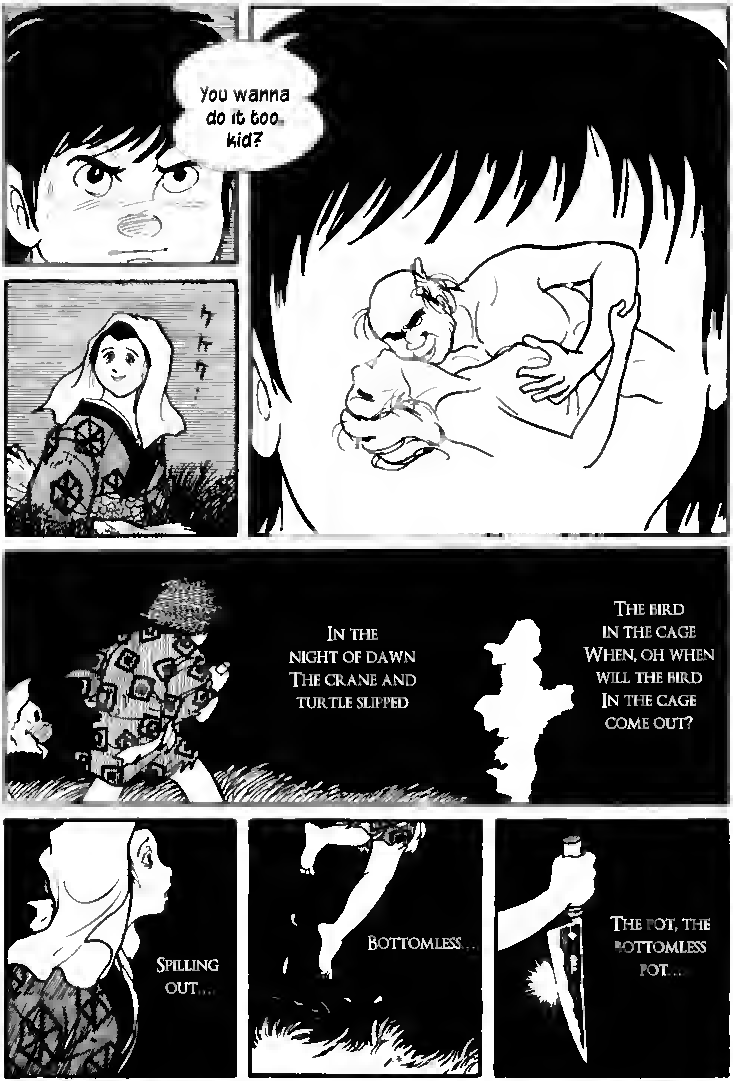
BAT, BAT,
LITTLE PRICKLY ASH,
LET US SIT UNDER THE WILLOW
AND DRINK VINEGAR

THE CROW GOES CAW, CAW,
KANZABURO
THE SPARROW GOES CHIRP, CHIRP,
CHUZAEMON
THE BLACK KITE SHRIEKS
HIGH PRIEST

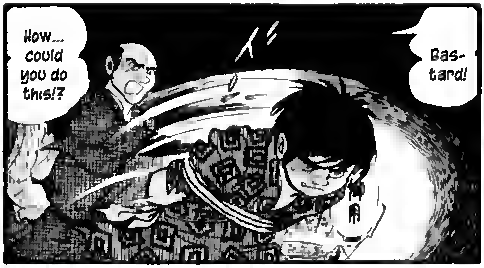

Geese, geese, fly away
The biggest geese in front
The smallest geese behind
Fly away peacefully


The seven flowers,
Shepherd's Purse
Before the bird of China
Flies to the land
Of the countryside,
Rat-a-tat-tat-tat
Rat-a-tat-tat-tat


Sleep baby sleep go to sleep
Little boy, where did your guardian go?
He crossed the mountains to his village
What did you get as a souvenir from the village?
A pellet drum and a *sho* flute
A tumbling doll and a hand drum


You wanna do it too, kid?
ケケケ…
In the night of dawn the crane and turtle slipped
The bird in the cage when, oh when will the bird in the cage come out?
Spilling out…
Bottomless…
The pot, the bottomless pot…

It's him!!
...H...He killed her!
Bong bong bong it just turned to tomorrow.
Tomorrow my wife's grass is wilted
I put the wilted grass in the watchtower.
Heaving it with an en-yara-ya
Ohhh, it cuts at my hands
If it can cut at my hands, it can cut at my feet
Long, long, the coaches of Ryogoku are long
Ohh I'll give you the horses,
Ohh, I'll give you the carriages,
Ohh, I don't want the horses, Ohh,
I don't want the carriages
Sixteen or seventeen lead by the hand
Lead by the hand
Huh?
That kid... is a mad wolf!!
Let's go! We can't let him get away this time!
There he is!
Cut him off!



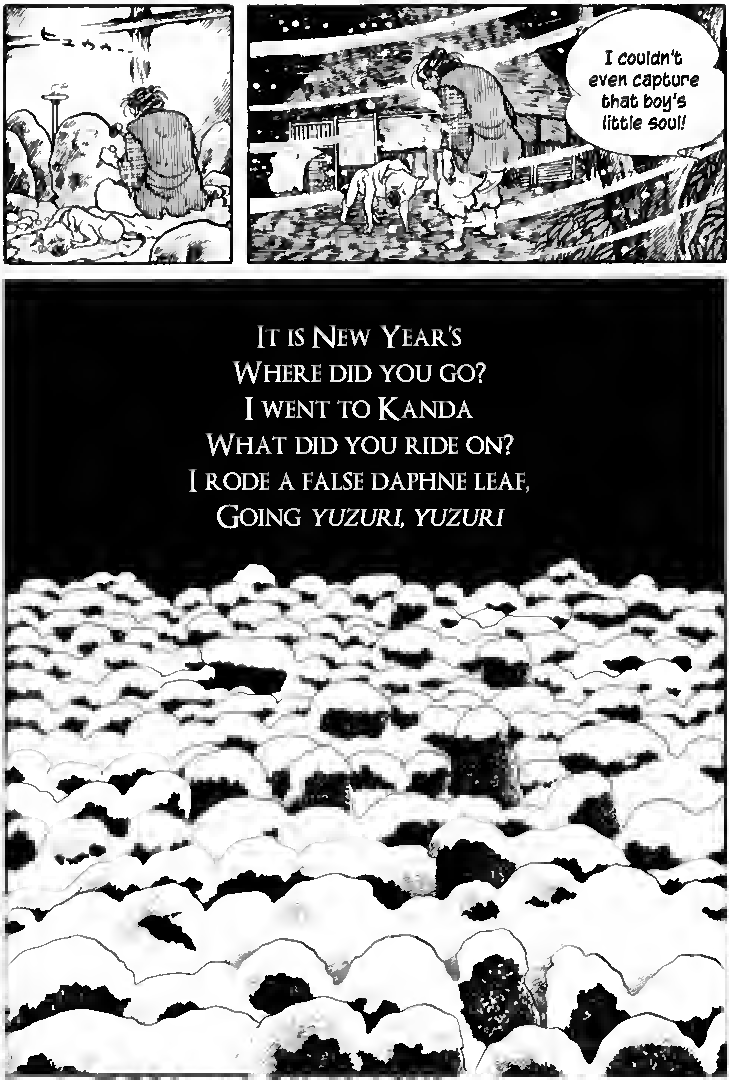
STEADY, STEADY, FALLING
FLAT, THE SESAME BEAN PASTE
CHASED INTO A TEA URN
AND THE DOOR GOES BANG
IF IT GETS OUT,
IT CAN REST EASY

THE MOUSE IN THE
STRAW BAG EATING
THE RICE, GOES SQUEAK.
SQUEAK SQUEAK. SQUEAK

Look!
That thing in that street-walker's throat...
..That's my chisel!
Heh.. hehe, Don't bother, gramps
I don't know what you're trying to pull.. but if you're trying to protect the kid..
We've known it'd be him for a while now!!
I-It's true! I killed her!
I picked up this dagger that someone had dropped,
and that woman lured me.
..And when she said "two hundred mon", I panicked...
LIAR!!

I killed her!!
I killed her!!
Ah!
H-Hey, wait!
BIG CRADLE, LITTLE CRADLE,
WHAT CHILD HAS CAUGHT YOUR EYE?
SOMEBODY HAS CAUGHT ITS EYE,
WHAT WILL IT BE RAISED ON?
SUGAR AND STEAMED BUNS?
THAT IS THE POISON OF INSECTS
SEA BREAM OR MULLET?
THEIR BONES WILL STICK OUT. CHEW IT FOR HIM,
AND HE WILL SPIT UP. WASH IT FOR HIM,
AND HE WILL BE RESERVED.
PUT BIG PEOPLE'S CLOTHES ON HIM,
RAISE HIM UP TWICE,
LET HIM STUDY. PUT BIG PEOPLE'S
CLOTHES ON HIM. PUT HIM IN THE CRADLE,
AND TAKE HIM TO SEE THE FLOWERS
AND THAT WILL BE GOOD

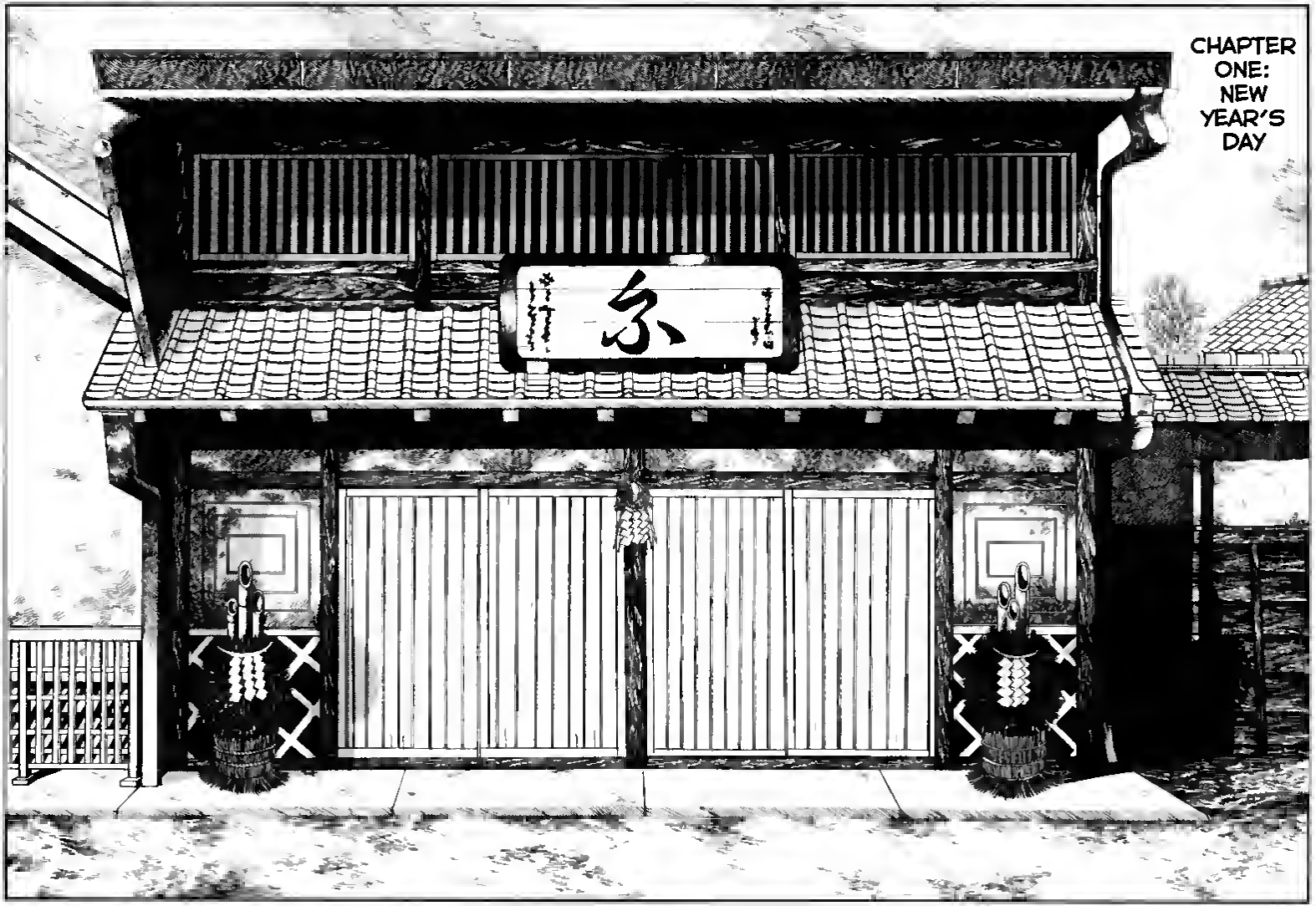
You idiots!!
Ah, ah, ahhhh!!
I-I'm such a blundering thief-teker...!
And precisely because he's a child... when he saw Hell itself... he could not do what we adults do and gloss it over!!
I-Is he even a k-kid!?
I... I've never seen... a kid like that!
He's a child!
Yes, he's a child ...!!

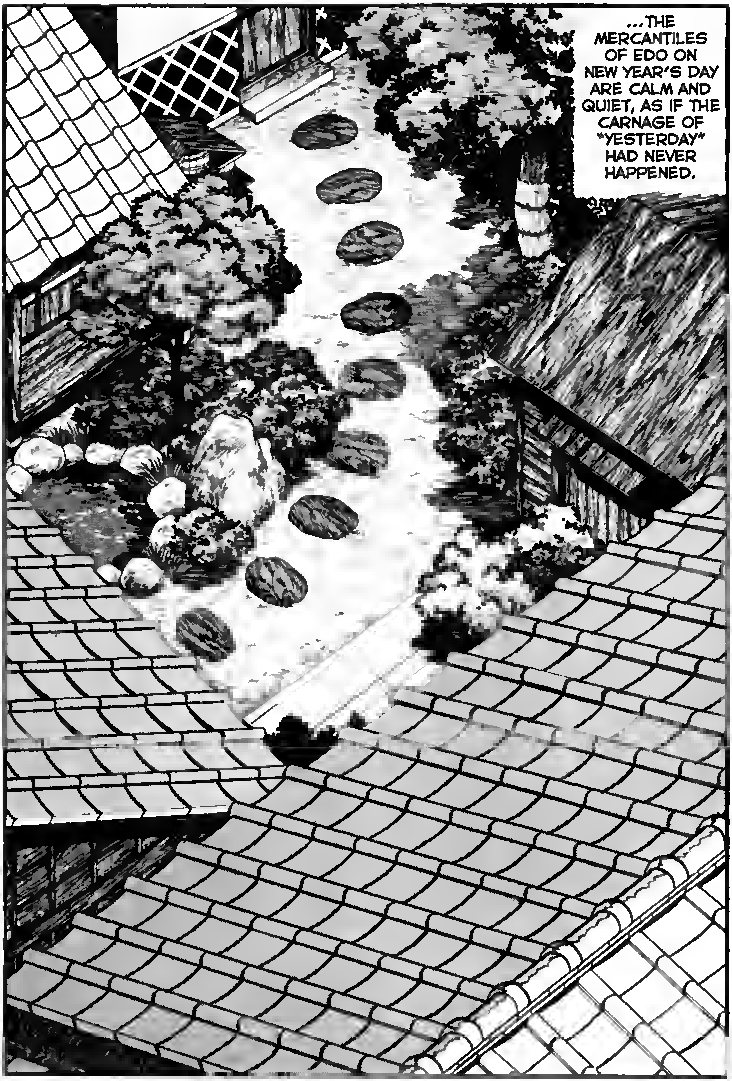

I couldn't even capture that boy's little soul!
IT IS NEW YEAR'S
WHERE DID YOU GO?
I WENT TO KANDA
WHAT DID YOU RIDE ON?
I RODE A FALSE DAPHNE LEAF,
GOING *YUZURI, YUZURI*

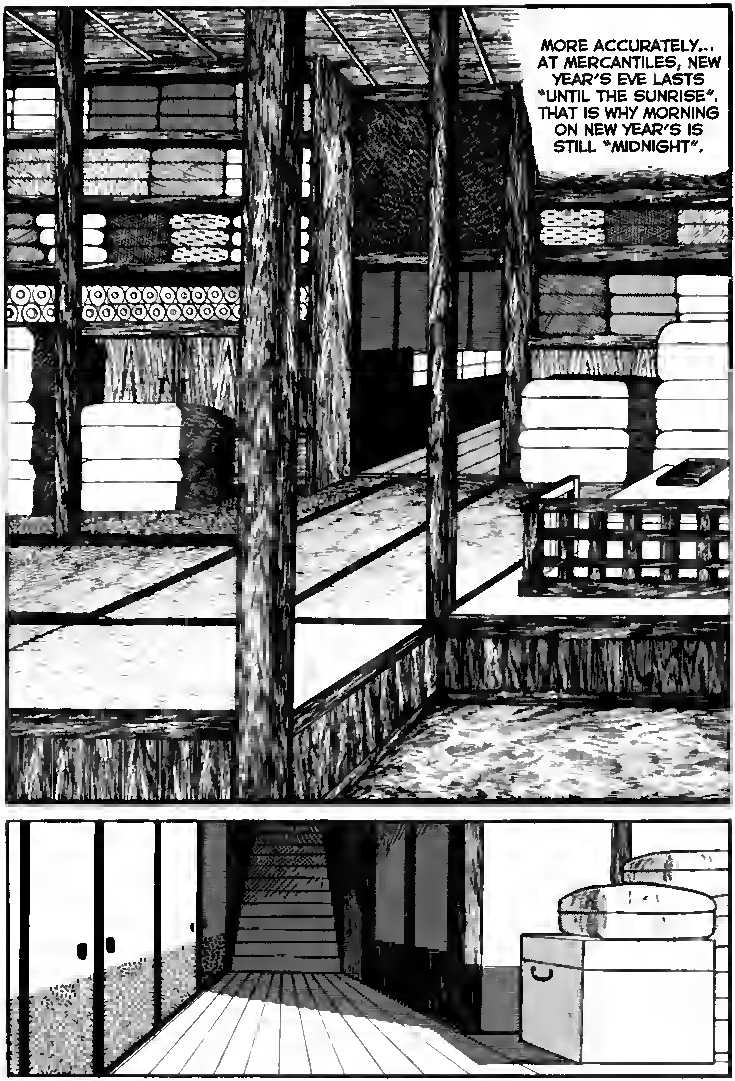
December 1971: "Folk Songs in the Children's Limbo" (FIN)

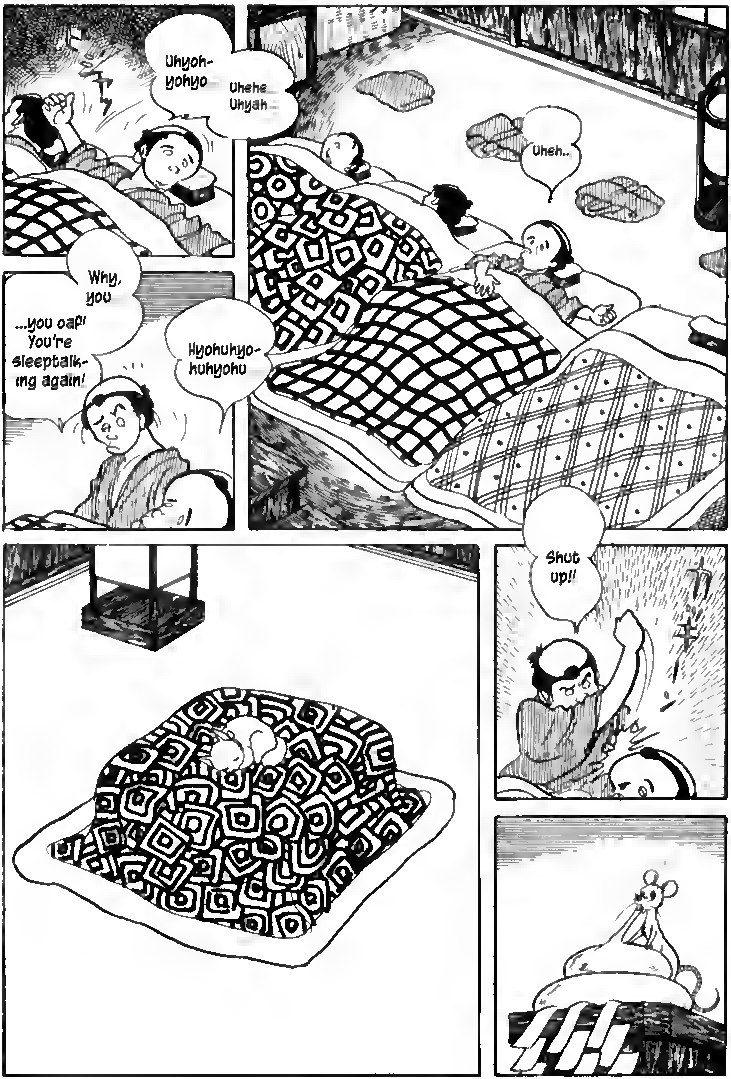
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 73
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

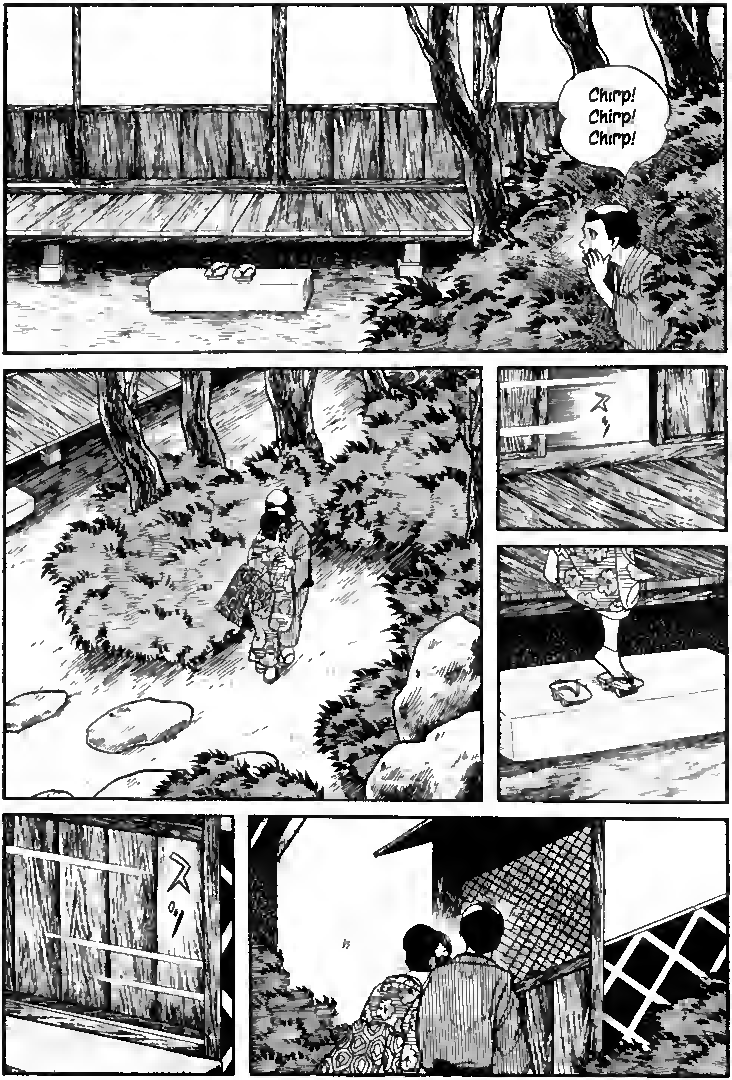
Chapter 74: The Mouse Cries over Nothing

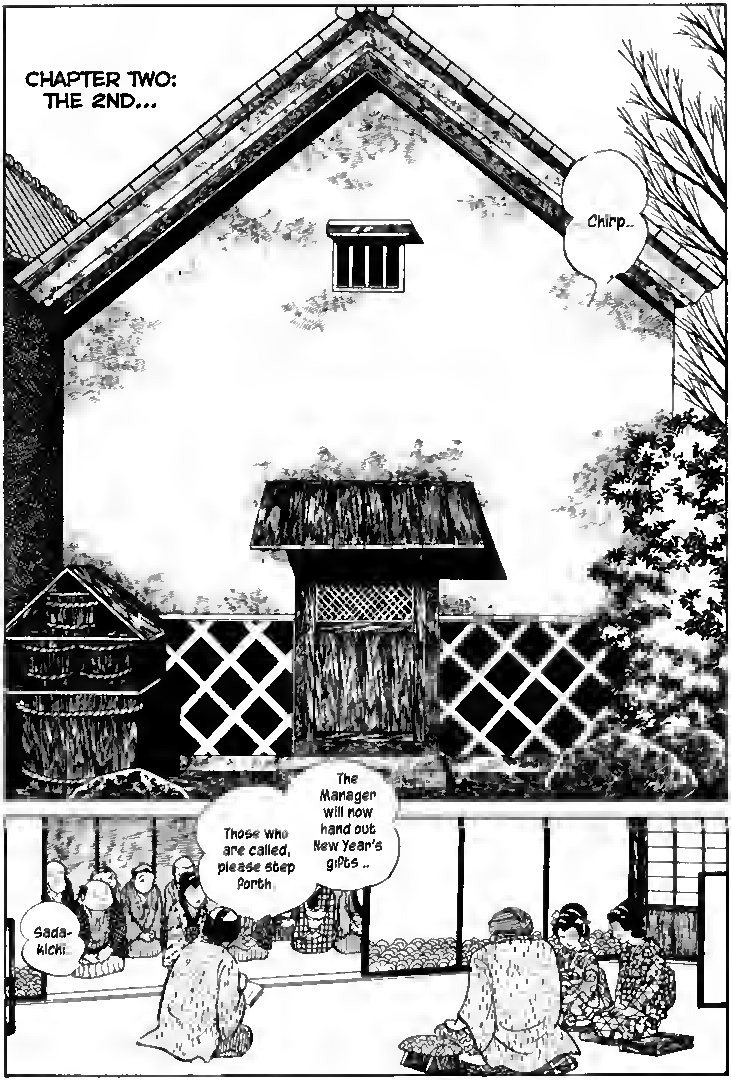

CHAPTER ONE: NEW YEAR'S DAY


...THE MERCANTILES OF EDO ON NEW YEAR'S DAY ARE CALM AND QUIET, AS IF THE CARNAGE OF "YESTERDAY" HAD NEVER HAPPENED.

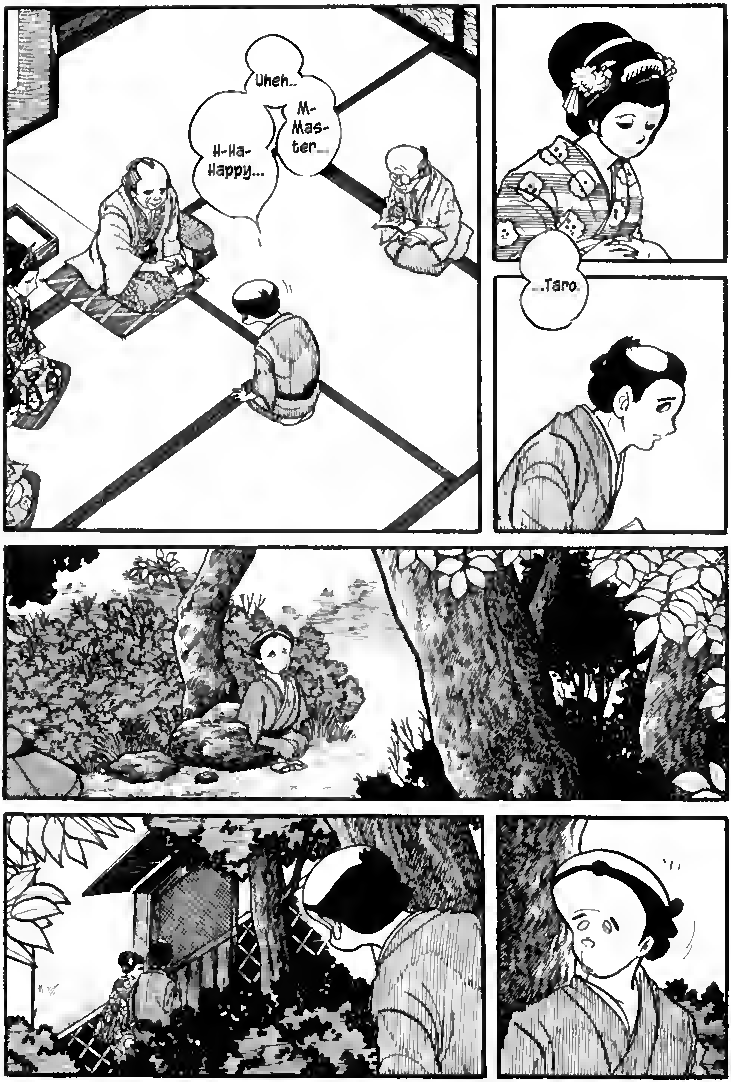

MORE ACCURATELY... AT MERCANTILES, NEW YEAR'S EVE LASTS "UNTIL THE SUNRISE". THAT IS WHY MORNING ON NEW YEAR'S IS STILL "MIDNIGHT".

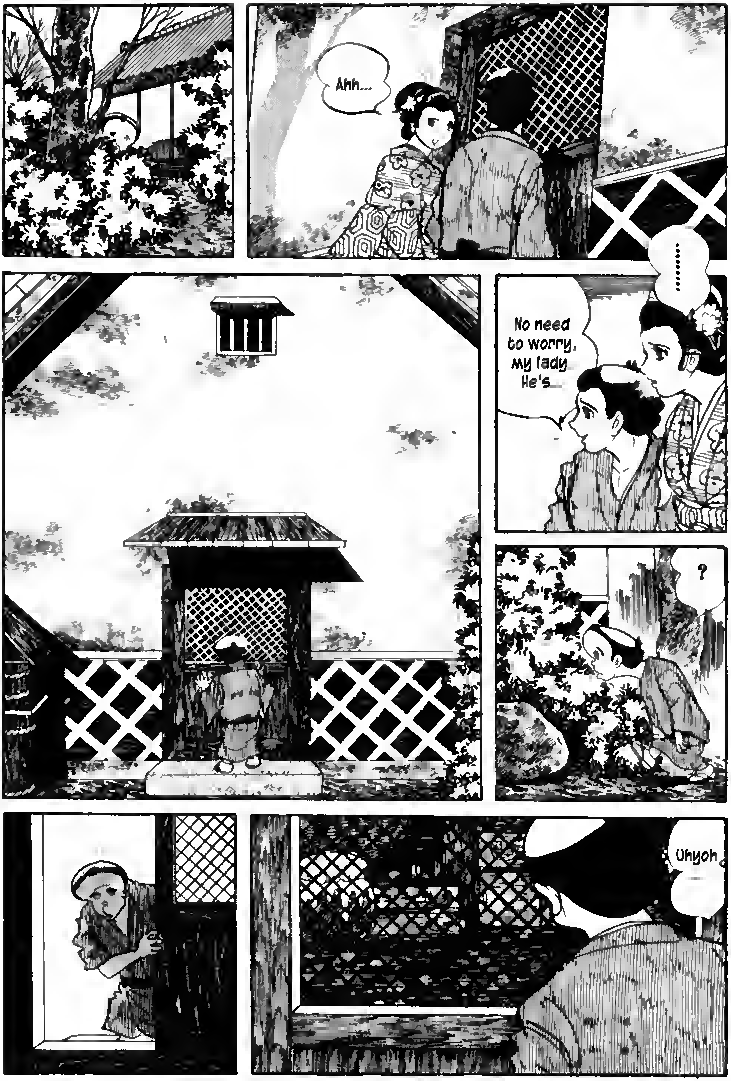

Uhyoh-
yohyo
Uhehe
Uhyah
Uheh..
Why, you
...you oaf! You're sleeptalk-ing again!
Hyohuhyo-huhyohu
Shut up!!

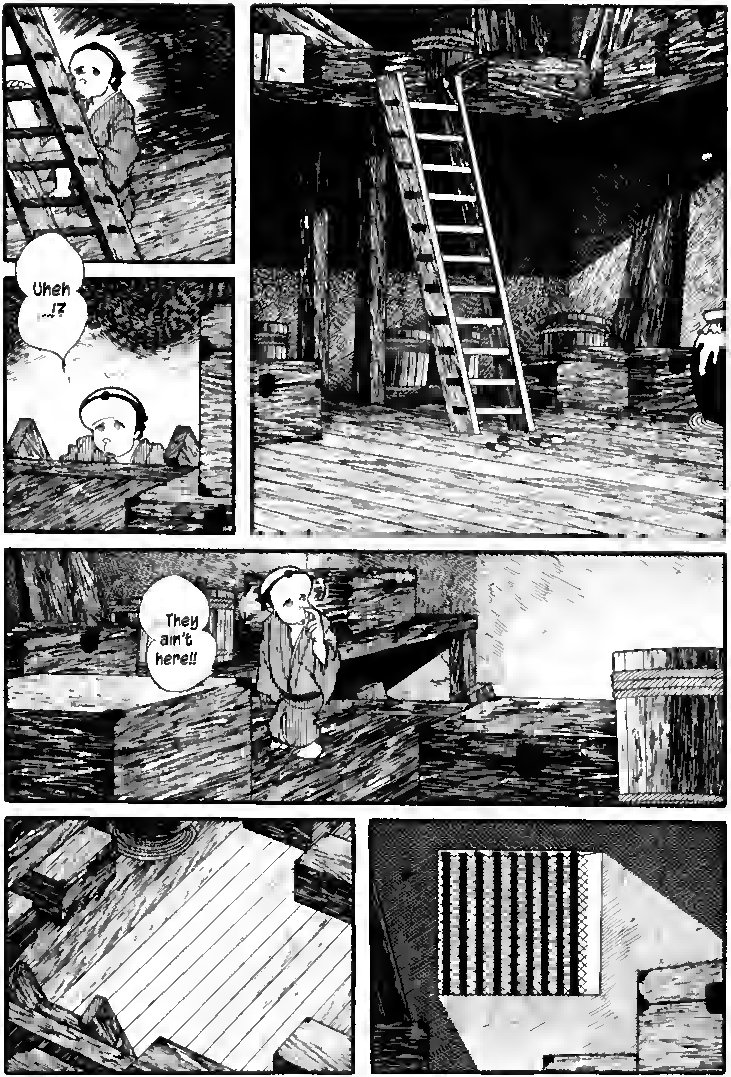

Chirp!
Chirp!
Chirp!
スッ
スッ


CHAPTER TWO:
THE 2ND...
Chirp..
The Manager will now hand out New Year's gifts..
Those who are called, please step forth.
Sada-kichi.

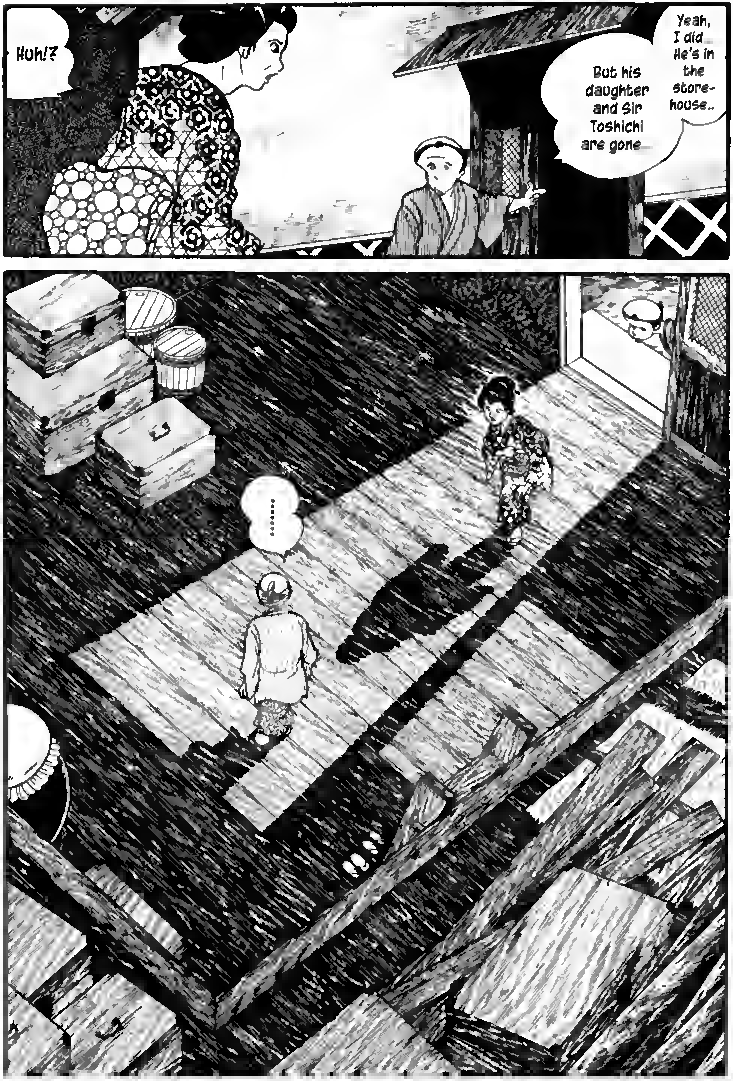
Mo-suke
Yone
I wish the best
Yes, Happy New Year.
Happy New Year I wish the very best for you this year.
Sir, Ma'am, my lady,
Tane
Yo-shimi.
Sen-pachi
Tahei
To-shichi.
Sumi.


Uheh..
M-Mas-ter...
H-Ha-Happy...
...Taro.


Ahh...
No need to worry, my lady. He's...
.....
?
Uhyoh


Uheh ...!?
They ain't here!!

Huh?
Ah, ah, ah...
ドン
M-M-M-Master... Sir Toshichi and your daughter...
Uhyoh!
Ah,
What's wrong, Taro? What were you doing there!?
Uheeh!
...They went into the storehouse alone... and disappeared!!
What!?
Did you see the manager at all?
Ah, it's Taro!

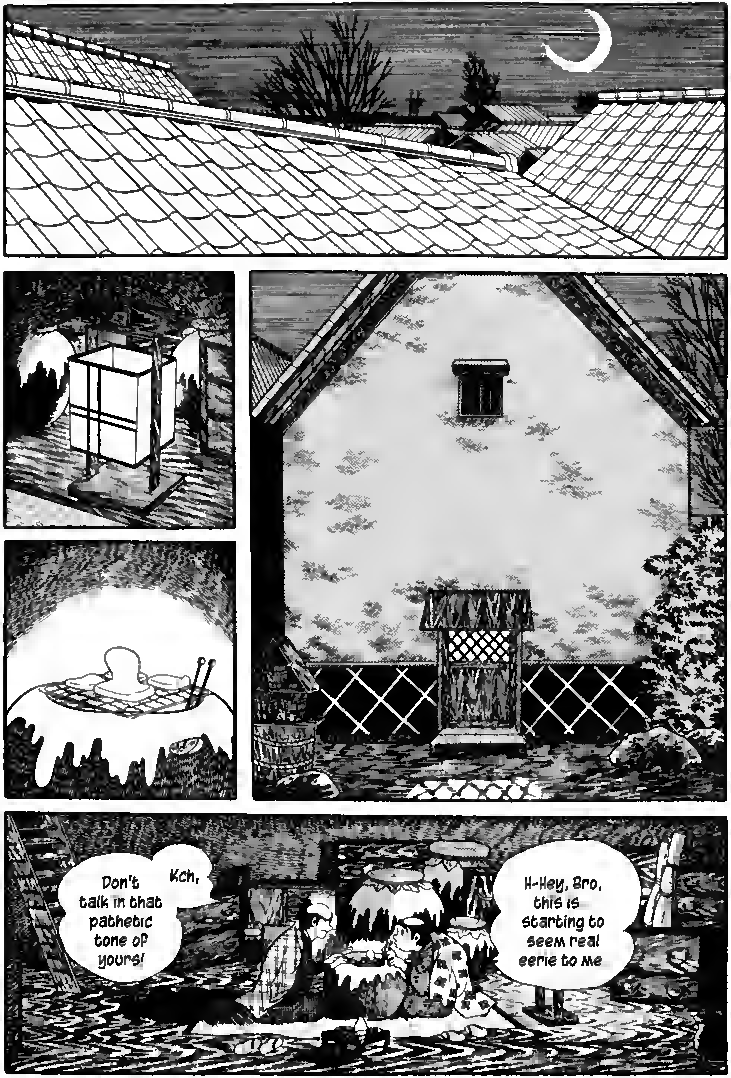

Huh!?
But his daughter and Sir Toshichi are gone...
Yeah, I did... He's in the storehouse..
.....

I-I ain't lyin'!
I swear to all the gods and Buddhas!
I didn't leave the storehouse since I saw them go in here!
.....

T-They've been spirited away!
Kikuno and Toshichi... have been spirited away... Ahh, ahh.
.....
.....
Why do you suppose they would go in here in the first place!?
...But,
Ah... Oh, well, I...
I think I can guess...
They're not here, Boss
We searched every nook and cranny... But the windows are covered by a wire screen...
And there don't seem to be any trapdoors or anything... The entrance is the only way they could get out.
...Same with the top floor.

No one came out since they went in here...
I was here the whole time!
It's true!
(HE DOES SEEM TO BE MISSING A FEW OF HIS WITS... BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HE'S LYING... BESIDES... HE DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD GOOD ENOUGH TO SET UP A RUSE.)
T- This would never have happened ...!!
If only they had been a bit more open about it...
I...I simply had no idea... that they were close like that...!
(... BUT STILL, HOW DID THEY VANISH FROM THE STORE-HOUSE...!?)
(SHE MAY SAY THAT NOW... BUT SOMEHOW I DOUBT SHE WOULD APPROVE OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A MERCANTILE'S DAUGHTER AND A SHOP BOY. SO THEY MUST'VE KNOWN THAT, AND TOOK HAND IN HAND AND ELOPED...? AND THIS RUSE WAS SET UP FOR THAT. .!?)
This has become an uproar... Everyone in the house has split up to look for them...
(SPIRITED AWAY? THEY TOOK OFF THEIR SANDALS, WENT UP TO THE SECOND STORY, AND FROM THERE... IMPOSSIBLE!)

...There must be a "key" somewhere in here!
Listen, you two!
Don't take a single step from here!
Yes, sir!!

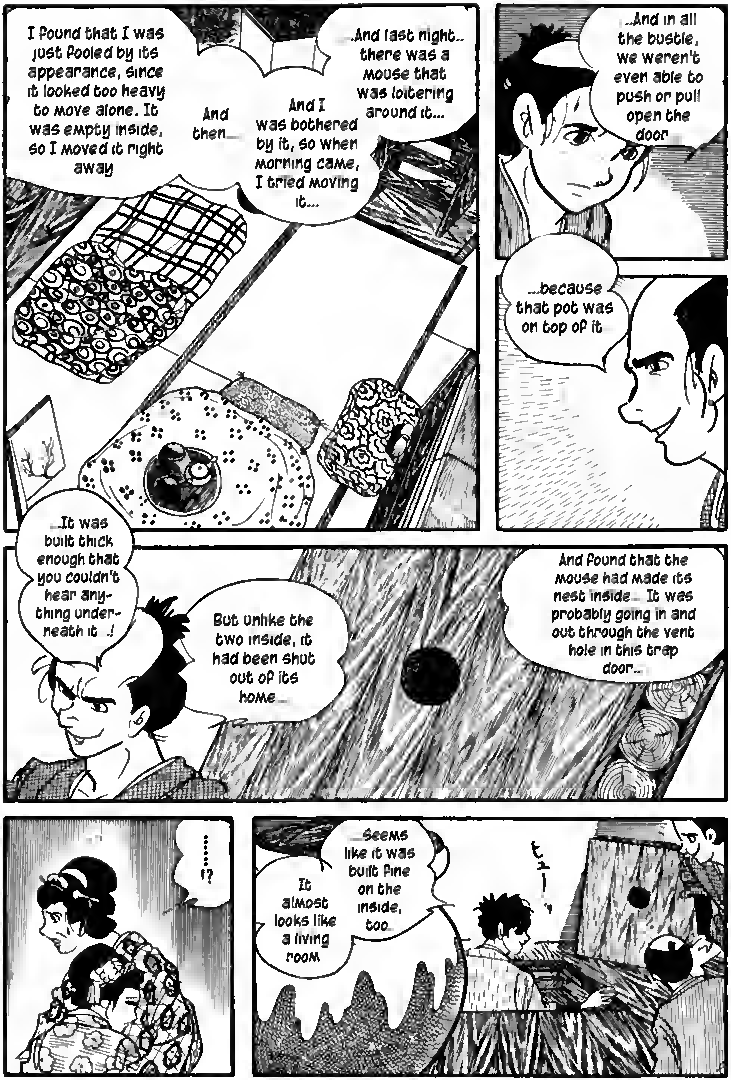

Don't talk in that pathetic tone of yours!
Kch,
H-Hey, Bro, this is starting to seem real eerie to me

Eek!!
Dumb-ass!
Don't go jumping at shadows! It's only a mouse!!

CHAPTER THREE:
THE 3RD...
You came at the perfect time!!
Ah, Boss!

We have caused a disturbance...
M...My deepest apologies.

...And ever since... We would go in there...
...As we were rendez-vousing in the store-house...
We found a secret trapdoor in the strangest place...
Ahyoh!?
...So we decided to poke a little fun at him...
...But yesterday... The idiot... I mean, Sir Taro saw us go into the storehouse together...
...We removed our shoes... a-at the bottom of the ladder, then hurried into the cellar and hid. And it went well up until there...
But then someone came in, and we couldn't leave...


I found that I was just fooled by its appearance, since it looked too heavy to move alone. It was empty inside, so I moved it right away
And then...
And I was bothered by it, so when morning came, I tried moving it...
...And last night... there was a mouse that was loitering around it...
...And in all the bustle, we weren't even able to push or pull open the door...
...because that pot was on top of it
...It was built thick enough that you couldn't hear anything underneath it...!
But unlike the two inside, it had been shut out of its home...
And found that the mouse had made its nest inside... It was probably going in and out through the vent hole in this trap door...
.....!?
It almost looks like a living room
...Seems like it was built fine on the inside, too...
ヒュー

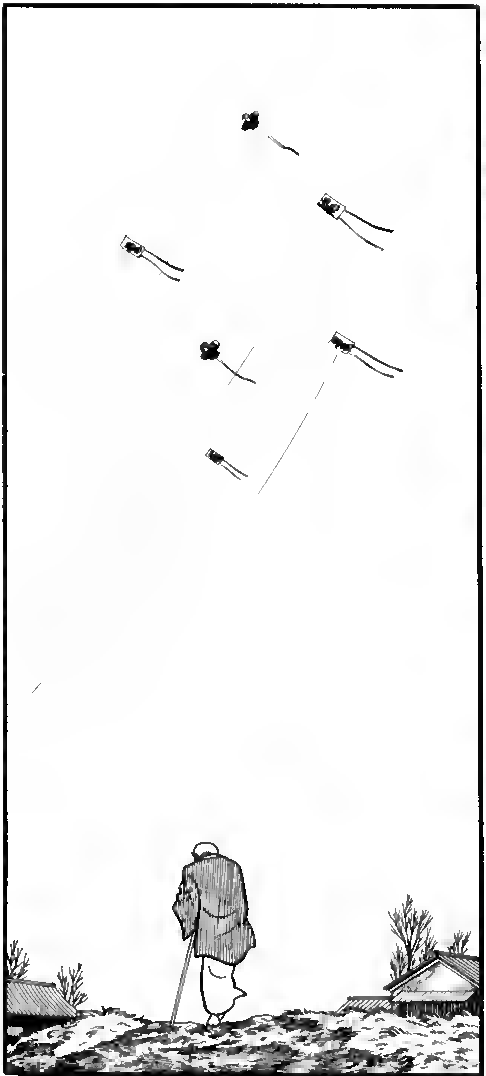
Now the question is, who would trap them in here... and why...
And... Why didn't anyone tell me... that this "living room hole" existed yesterday!?
Don't tell me... that no one knew that such a place existed here!

Which means that whoever entered the storehouse after you...
...I wouldn't imagine so.

Uh... Uh, I... didn't know anything!!

A-As soon as I entered the storehouse, I knew where they had gone
I put that pot on there!
...I-I'm sorry I-I-I...
B-But the uproar spread faster than I thought!!
and throw the two of them out.
O-Of course, I meant to move it right away
want anyone to know... about the cellar...
..I-I didn't...
Eeeek!
You're .. so despicable!
N-No, I know!
W-Why!?
S-So you were the one who made that!?

チュッ
I-I've wronged you!!
F-Forgive me!
So he could bring his maid or something in and have an affair!
...I hope that you... never have an affair like that!!
Sabu!
Oh, please!
Yes, the manager had built it in secret and kept it from his wife!
Heh... hehe...
Gyah!
Besides... Somebody told me that the neighbourhood girls are in an uproar...
You can never be too careful with them!
...You can never tell with men...
Heh...
Why would a straight-laced man like me ever...



January 1972 "The Mouse Cries over Nothing" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 74
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
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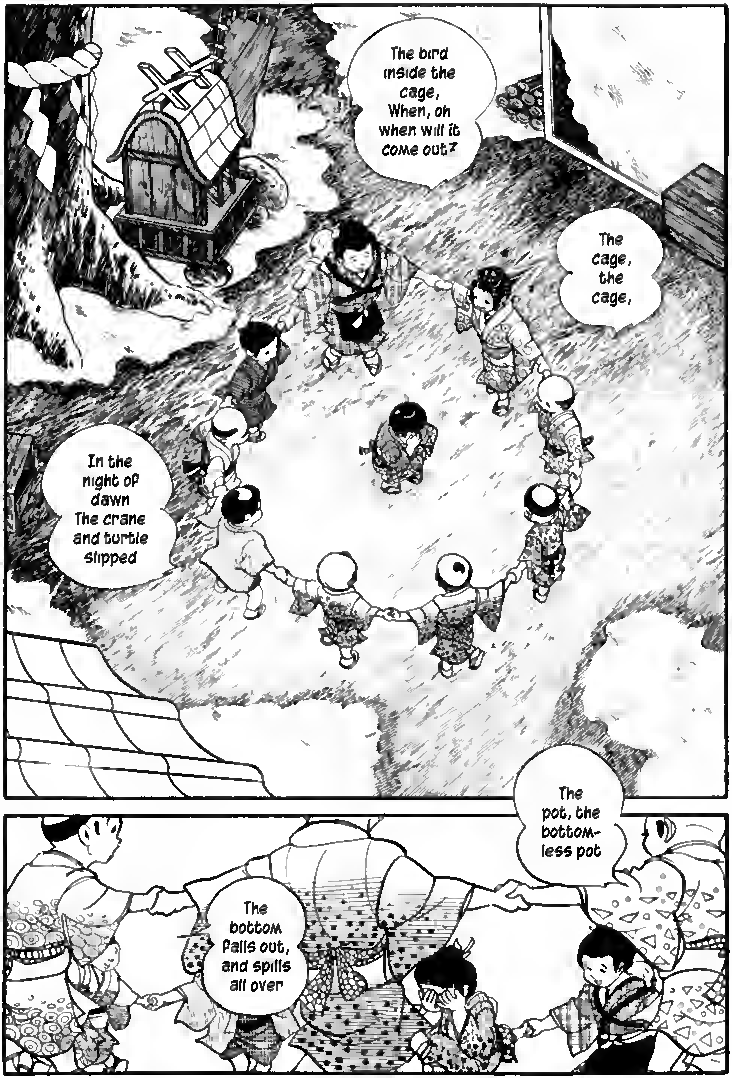
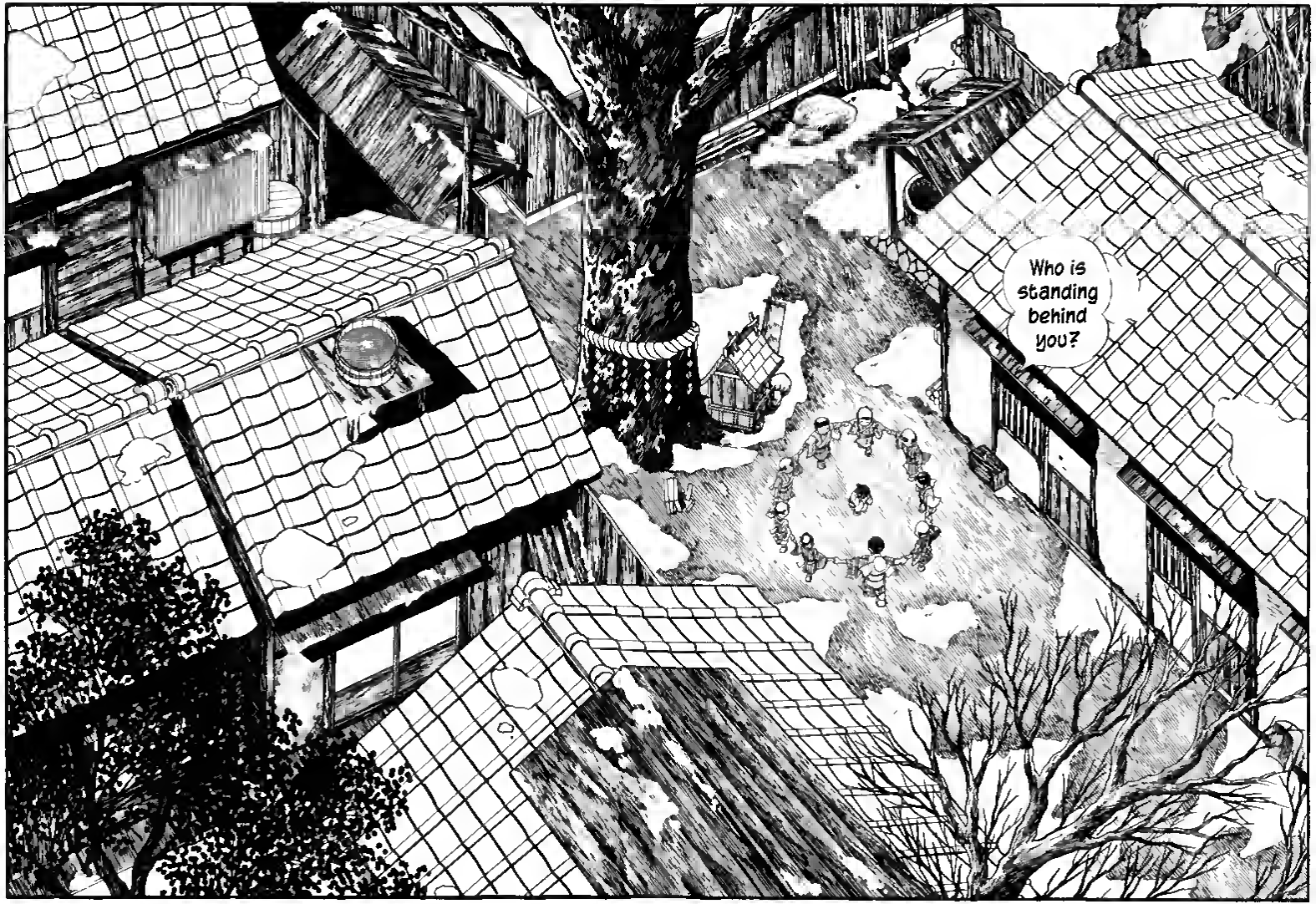
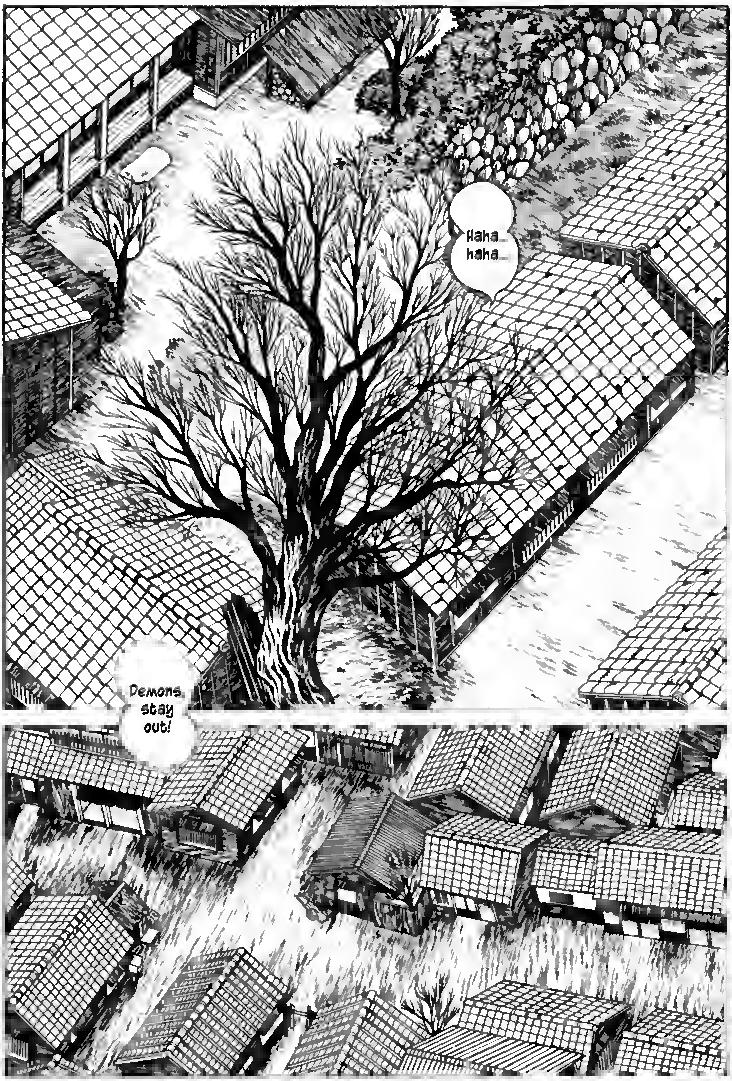
Chapter 75: Who Is Standing Behind You?

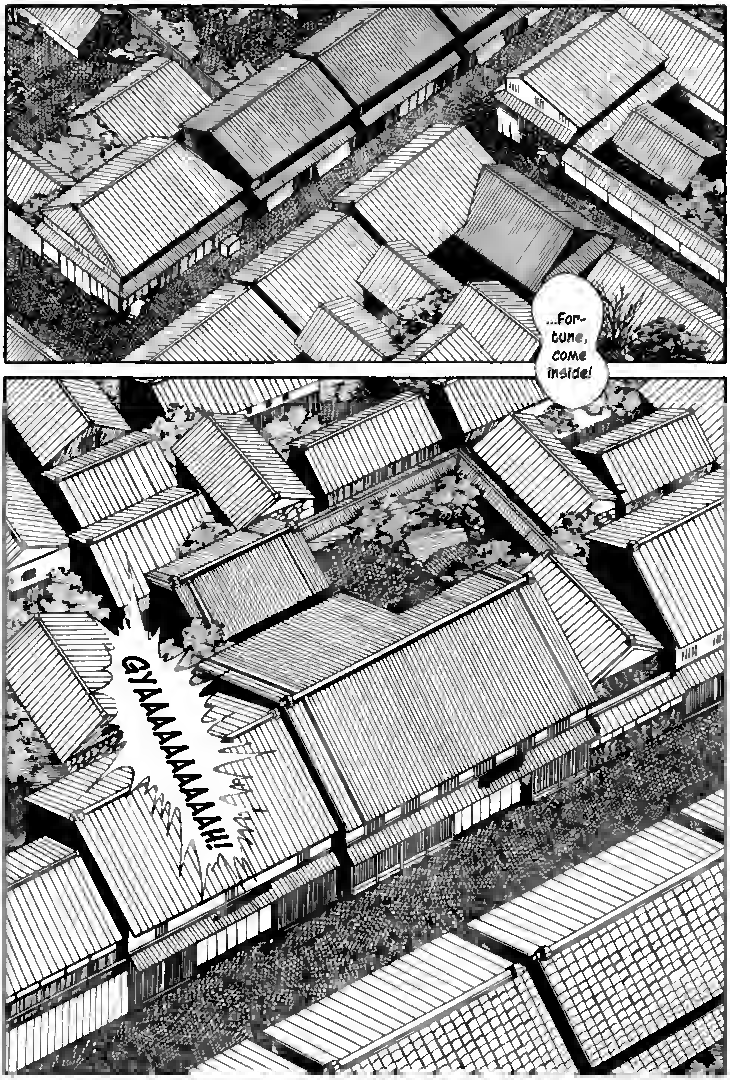

The bird inside the cage, When, oh when will it come out?
The cage, the cage,
In the night of dawn The crane and turtle slipped
The pot, the bottom-less pot
The bottom falls out, and spills all over

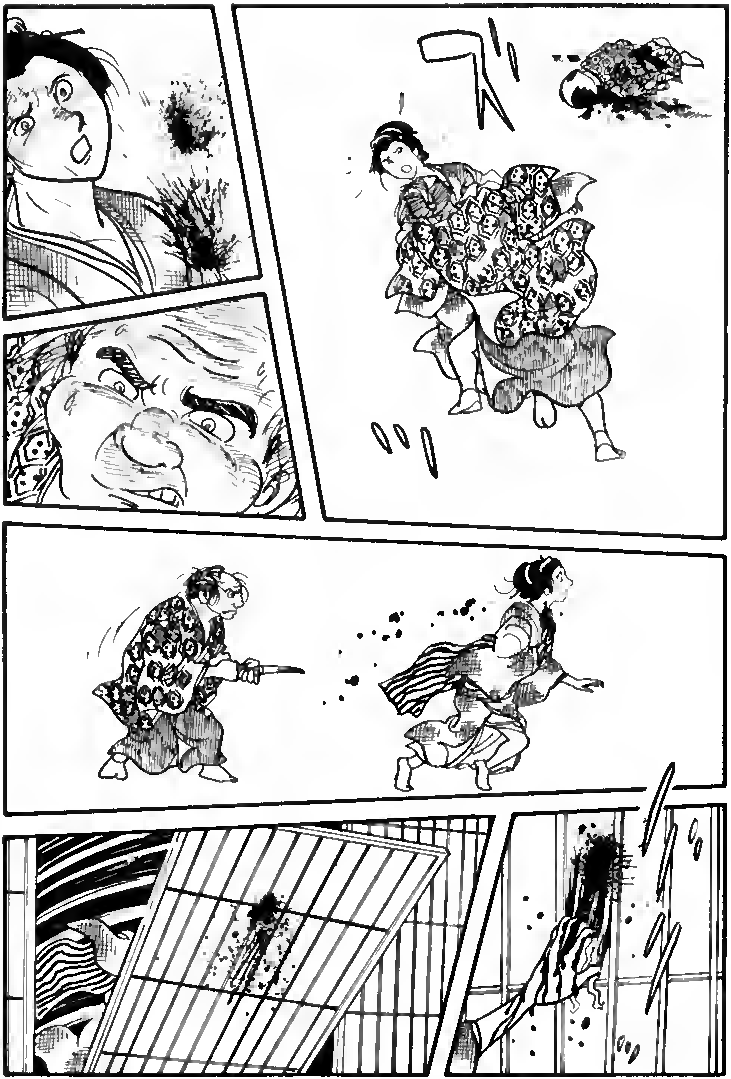

Who is standing behind you?

AIEEEEEEEEEEE!!

Aha haha ha...
Aha..
Ah hahhah hahha...
エ エ エ
Hahaha hahaha...
Keha haha haha...

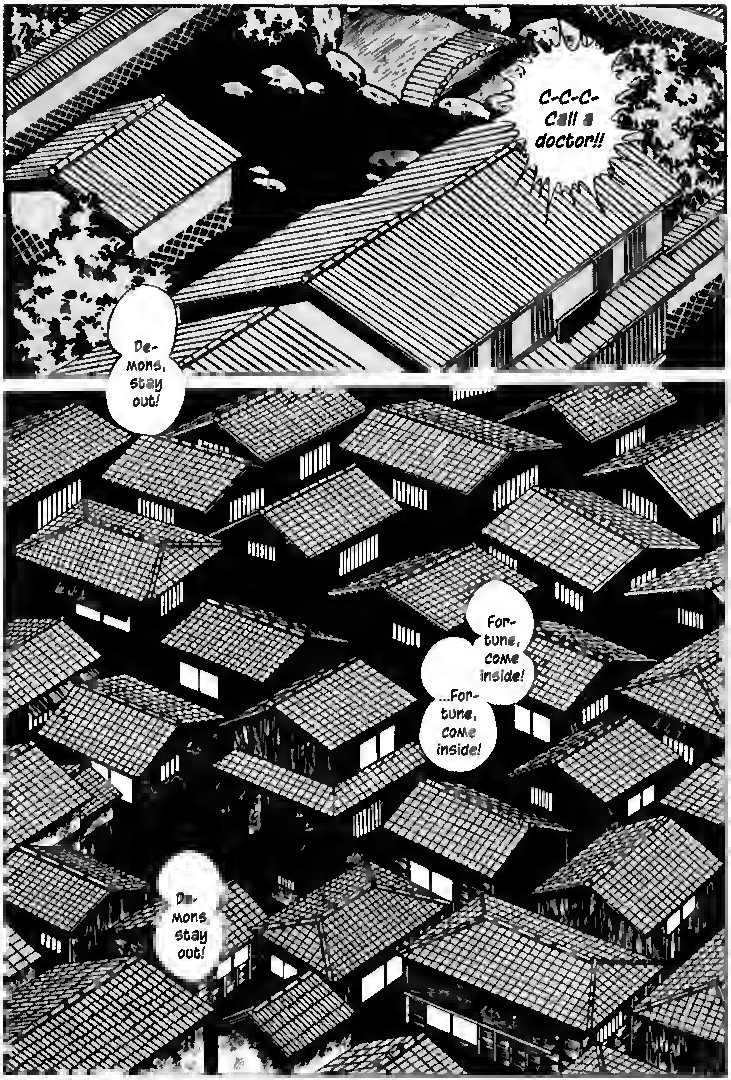

Haha... haha...
Demons, stay out!

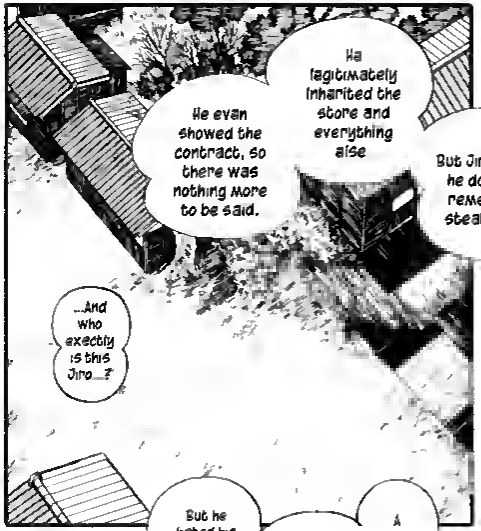

...For-tune, come inside!
GYAAAAAAAAAAH!!



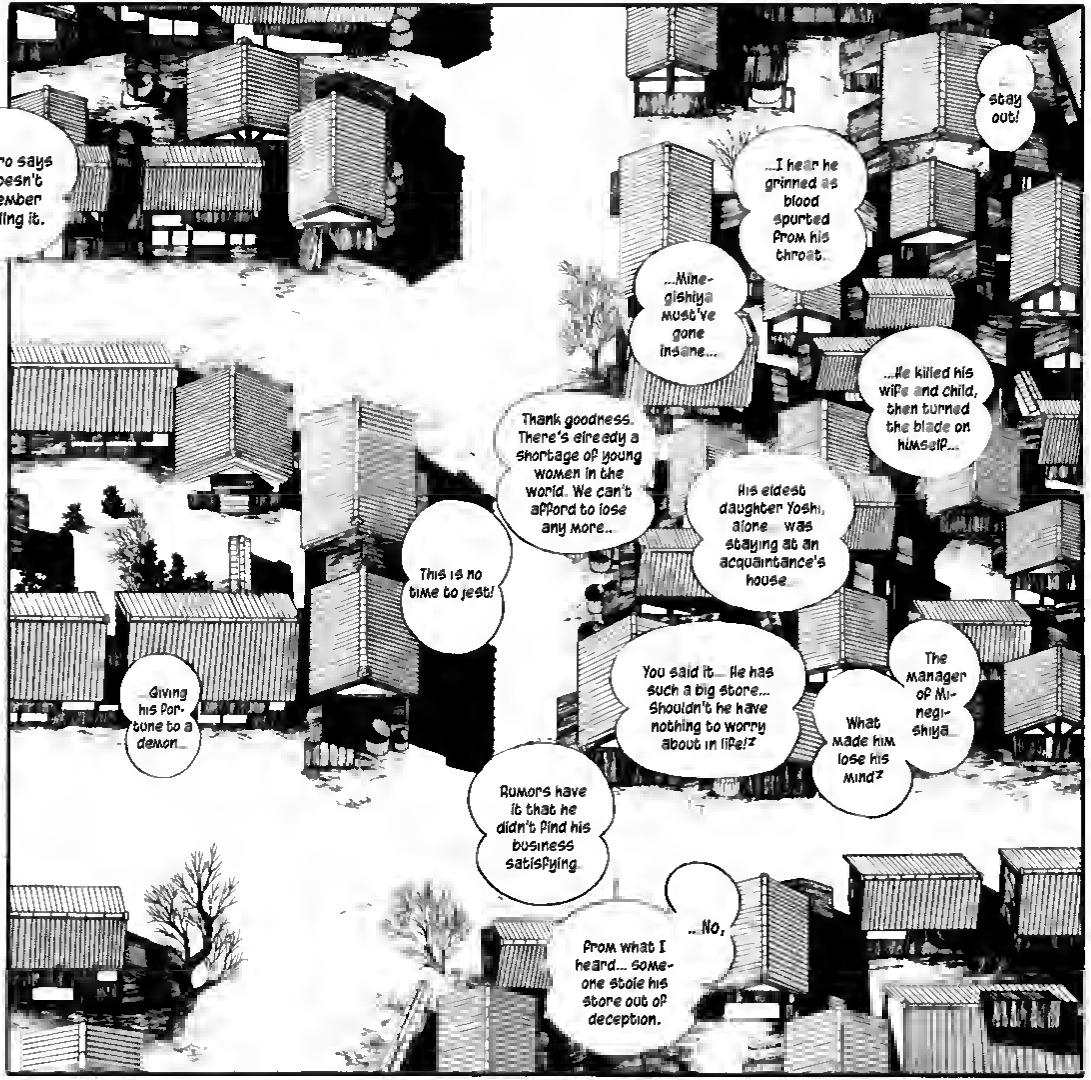
フッ
M-Mas-ter!?

Ma..
Bwa-aah!
M-M-Master!!
That.. demon!!
...That demon d.. destroyed my store..!!


C-C-C-Call a doctor!!
De-mons, stay out!
For-tune, come inside!
...For-tune, come inside!
De-mons, stay out!


He even showed the contract, so there was nothing more to be said.
He legitimately inherited the store and everything else
But Jiro says he doesn't remember stealing it.
...And who exactly is this Jiro...?

But he hated his work and ran away from home...
He started out as the son of a poor tinkerer...
A carpenter.
And is that contract... legitimate?
...Well, yeah.

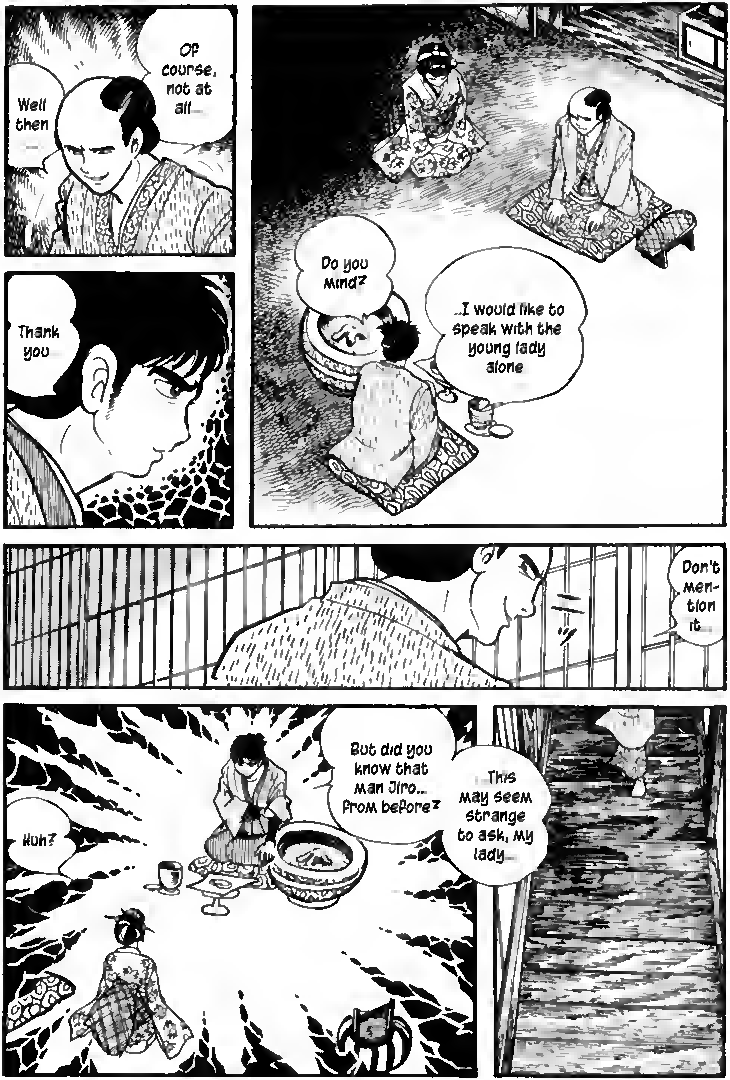

...stay out!
...I hear he grinned as blood spurted from his throat.
...Minegishiya must've gone insane...
...He killed his wife and child, then turned the blade on himself...
Thank goodness. There's already a shortage of young women in the world. We can't afford to lose any more...
His eldest daughter Yoshi, alone... was staying at an acquaintance's house...
This is no time to jest!
...Giving his fortune to a demon...
You said it... He has such a big store... Shouldn't he have nothing to worry about in life!?
The manager of Minegishiya...
What made him lose his mind?
Rumors have it that he didn't find his business satisfying.
...No,
From what I heard... someone stole his store out of deception.

The handwriting matches Minegishiya's, and it has his seal on it
And it says that Minegishiya will cede all his property to Jiro, so there's no way to dispute it
Well then
If Minegishiya did write the contract in full awareness...
Then why did the manager go mad?
Hmm
I myself thought that seemed suspicious
Besides Minegishiya took a lifetime to go from a simple shop boy to where he is now.
He worked so hard to attain his store
I find it hard to believe he would just cede it to someone else with a simple piece of paper
But merchants do treat contracts more preciously than their lives...
Even if Jiro managed to copy Minegishiya's handwriting and forge the contract, there's still the seal
What of his daughter?

...It seems that she was staying at another house for pity...
The poor thing.
Ahh. Minegishiya's?
For pity?
Yes.
Jiro's already gotten himself into Minegishiya and is running the store
You don't suppose... that Jiro seduced her for it?
About the seal on the contract..
...I don't know, Gabu
A villain like Jiro could easily lead her by the nose if he had the mind...
She's an innocent maid who was sheltered and raised like a princess!
I see!
charging Jiro with the murder of Minegishiya and his family.
If we can just find proper evidence of that, we can build a case...
...Wanna look into that?

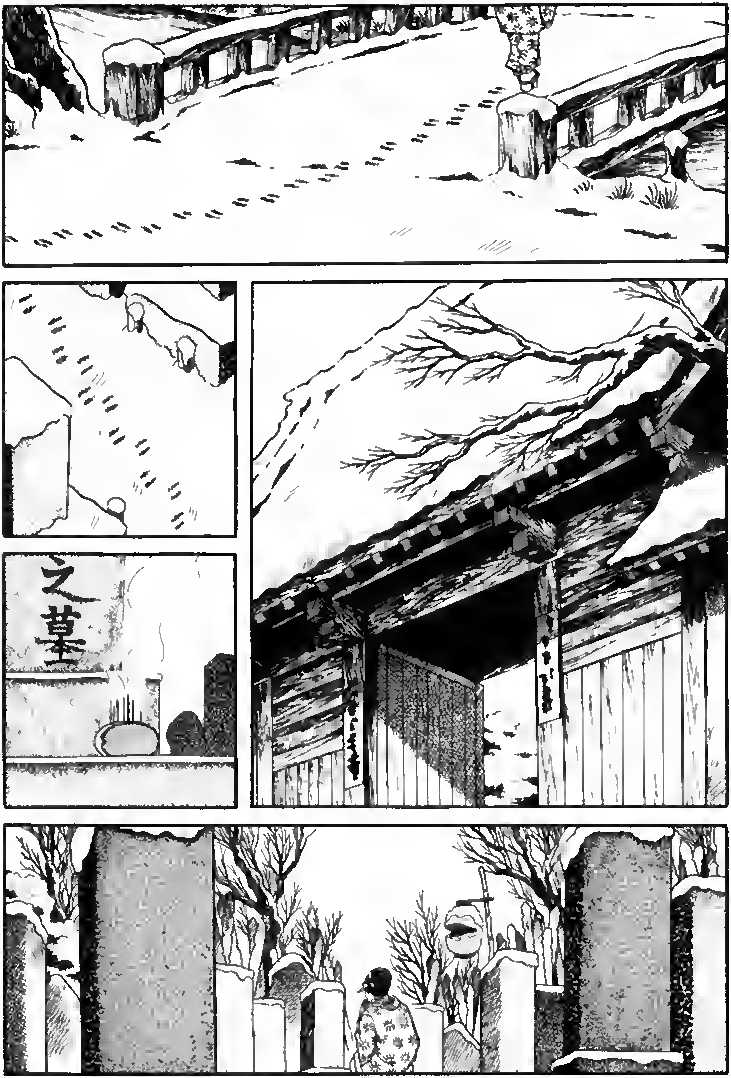
峰岸屋

Yes, even though the deal had already gone through...
I feel somewhat responsible for all that has happened.
That is why I wish
to do all that I can for the young lady.


Well then...
Of course, not at all...
Do you mind?
...I would like to speak with the young lady alone
Thank you
Don't mention it...
Huh?
But did you know that Man Jiro... from before?
...This may seem strange to ask, My lady...

...No, not since he came into this house...
...I didn't know anything about my father's business...
You've never once lent out
...your father's seal to anyone...?
0 0
Hmm
In that case...
O-Of course not! I don't even know where it would be kept...
I-I feel so sorry for Father!!
.....
Well, I wouldn't suppose you would..
Hmm ..
Sob.. Sob..

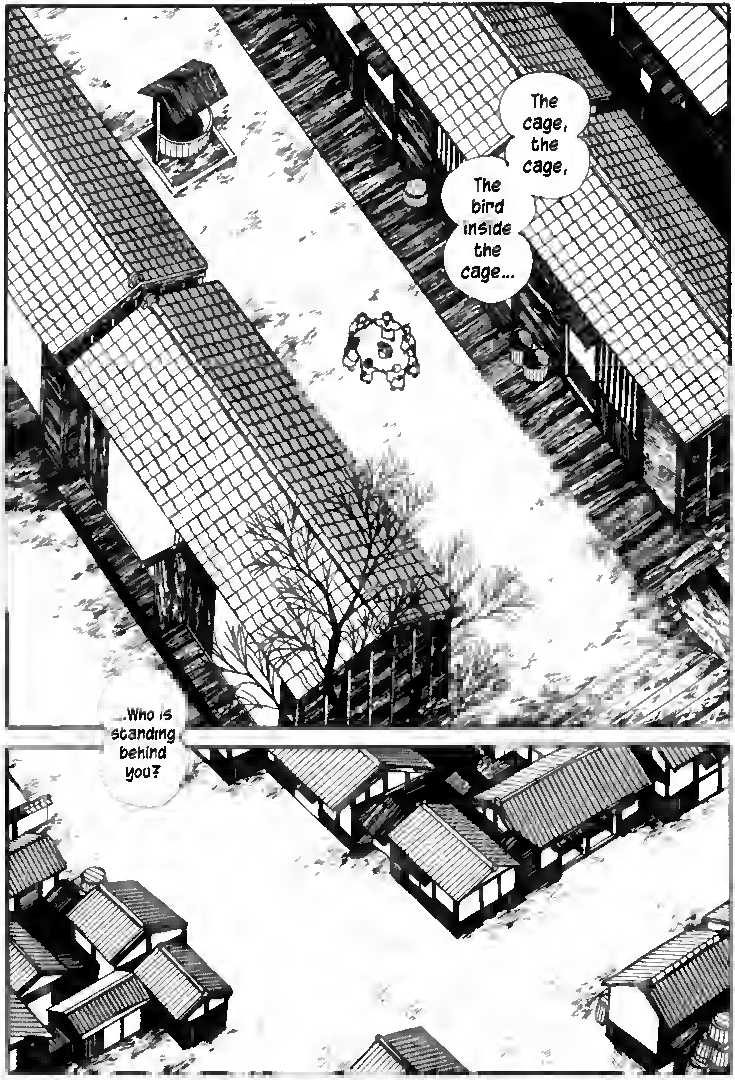
..I don't think Jiro threatened her to lie ..
Guess that was all for nothing

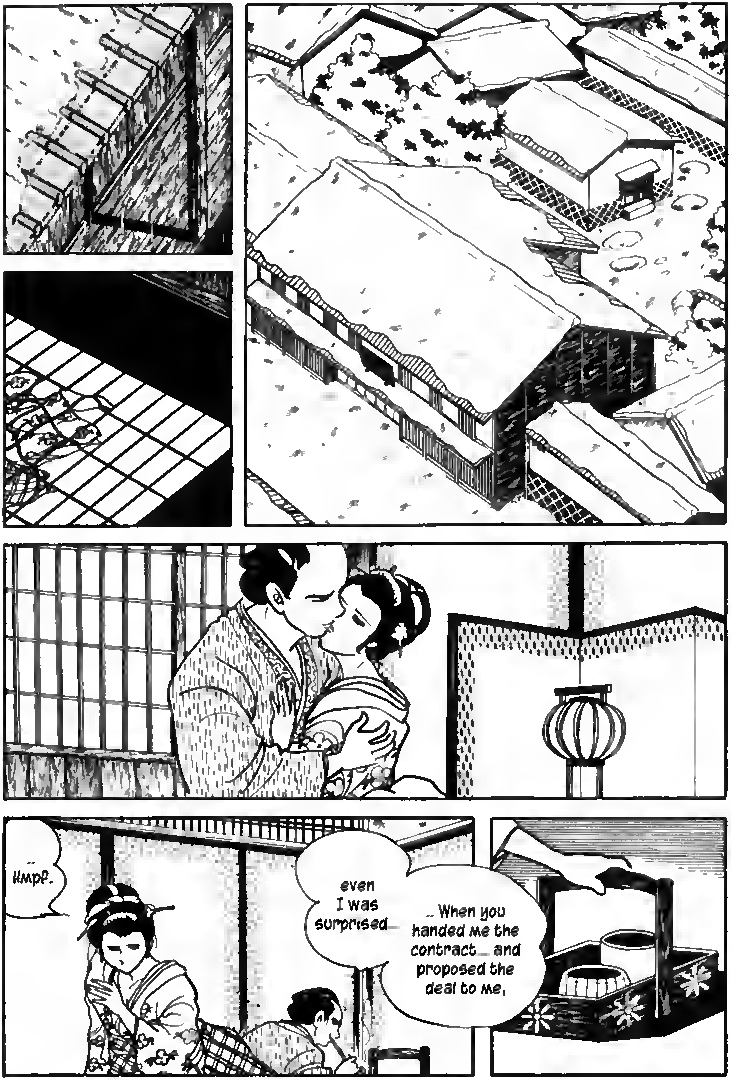

之墓

The boss already said we didn't need to ..
..Hey, bro, why are we still tailing that girl?
..Heh, just to pass the time...!
文墓

But... Don't you think it's a little too cold... to be passing the time... ahhh... ahhh...
A-CHOO!
.....
It was the grave of Minegishiya's previous wife... her real mother, in other words!
...The grave that the girl was bowing to wasn't her parents' or brother's new graves...
.....
So.
I felt somewhat uneasy about it, so I questioned the shop boys and maids there.
...and just as I had thought, she didn't get along so well with her new mother

Even more so after her new mother had a child.. Sometimes, they would even fight ..
Ginpei.
We didn't have any proof of it ..
Even if that girl had played a part in this case,
...What are you trying to say?
We can't make a case saying otherwise ...!
The seal on the contract was unmistakable.
...Minegishiya definitely .. killed his wife and child and committed suicide.
.....


The cage, the cage,
The bird inside the cage...
...Who is standing behind you?


...Hmph.
even I was surprised...
...When you handed me the contract... and proposed the deal to me,

..I just didn't expect... that Father would go mad and do what he did
..But after giving my mother nothing but hardships and letting her die...
then bringing in another woman right away... he got what he deserved!!

February 1972: "Who Is Standing Behind You?" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 75
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
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KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 76: The Hackberry Cries at Night

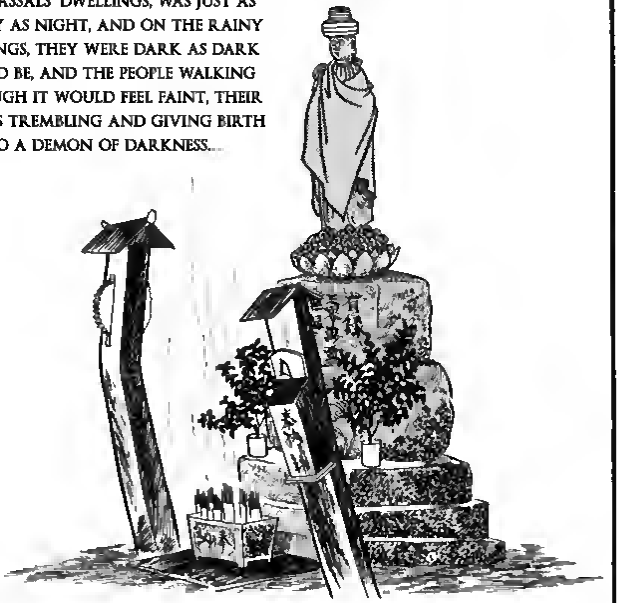
SLIPS POSTED ON THE SHRINE PILLAR

...THERE ARE STILL MANY MYSTERIOUS STORIES TELLING OF SUCH IMAGES APPEARING THOUGH WITH THE ROWS UPON ROWS OF HOUSES FILLING THE TOWN, AND THE DOOR LIGHTS FROM EVERY STREET LIGHTING UP THE ROADS, SUCH STORIES HAVE NOT DIED DOWN ABRUPTLY, BUT THE SCARS HAVE REMAINED IN THEIR MINDS, AND THERE ARE STILL MANY WHO ARE OCCASIONALLY LED ASTRAY BY TALES OF GHOSTS AND WISPS.

FROM THE HISTORY OF TOKYO CULTURE (WRITTEN BY HIRAYAMA KOJIRO), PUBLISHED BY HARA PUBLISHING

KOMAGOME DAIEN TEMPLE
THE PARCHING-PAN *JIZO*

LONG AGO IN EDO, WHERE IT WAS SAID THAT MONSTERS LIVED, EACH AND EVERY ALLEY FROM THE LORDS' MANSIONS TO THE VASSALS' DWELLINGS, WAS JUST AS LONELY AS NIGHT, AND ON THE RAINY EVENINGS, THEY WERE DARK AS DARK COULD BE, AND THE PEOPLE WALKING THROUGH IT WOULD FEEL FAINT, THEIR HEARTS TREMBLING AND GIVING BIRTH TO A DEMON OF DARKNESS...



VOTIVE PICTURE OF THE GODS AND BUDDHAS

VOTIVE PICTURE OF KUME-NO-HEINAI

VOTIVE PICTURE OF INARI

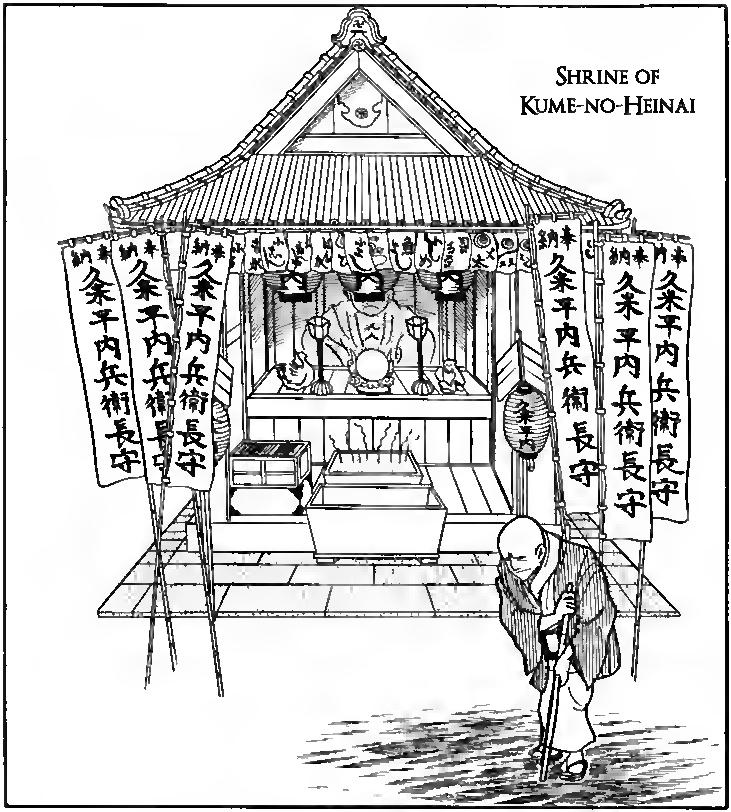
VOTIVE PICTURE OF TEMPERANCE

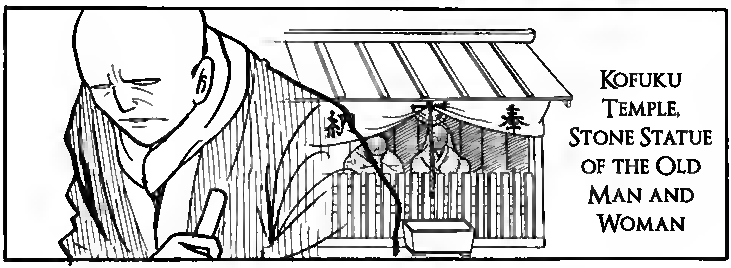
VOTIVE PICTURE OF A SHRINE

VOTIVE PICTURE OF KONPIRA

VOTIVE PICTURE OF EYES

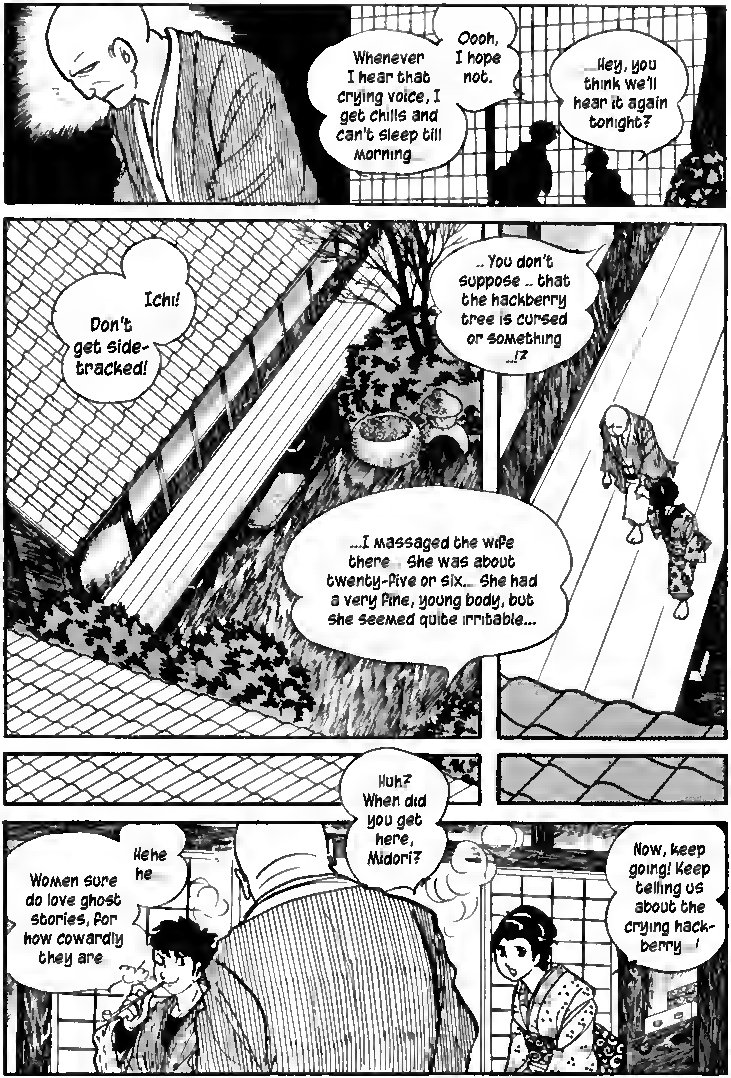
VOTIVE PICTURE OF A POWERFUL DEITY


SHRINE OF
KUME-NO-HEINAI
奉納
久米平内兵衛長守


KOFUKU
TEMPLE,
STONE STATUE
OF THE OLD
MAN AND
WOMAN
納
奉

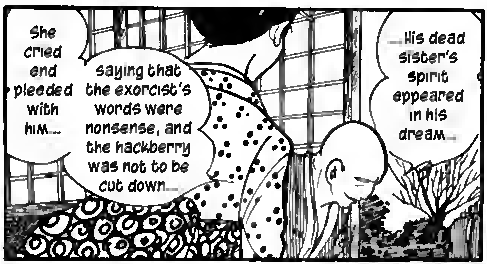
...I heard of something quite bizarre.
Sabu, listen to me for a minute!
There's a hackberry that cries at night!
...In Takenaka's mansion, where I was just at giving my massage.
Huh?

Now, don't be like that, just hear me out... This story is...
But you just wanna sit around and tell ghost stories!?
I thought you'd have another case for me...
Tch, what the hell?
My intuition tells me... that the truth is more...
Heh he...
Guess you're into this stuff, too, Ichi
Well... There's something that bothers me about it
I have a feeling there's something more to it...
Don't waste your breath. The ghost's gonna turn out to be some withered pampas grass!
.....
...Masseur, come in here and wait a while...


Whenever I hear that crying voice, I get chills and can't sleep till morning...
Oooh, I hope not.
...Hey, you think we'll hear it again tonight?
Ichi!
Don't get side-tracked!
...You don't suppose... that the hackberry tree is cursed or something...!?
...I massaged the wife there... She was about twenty-five or six... She had a very fine, young body, but she seemed quite irritable...
Huh? When did you get here, Midori?
Hehe he
Women sure do love ghost stories, for how cowardly they are
Now, keep going! Keep telling us about the crying hackberry...!

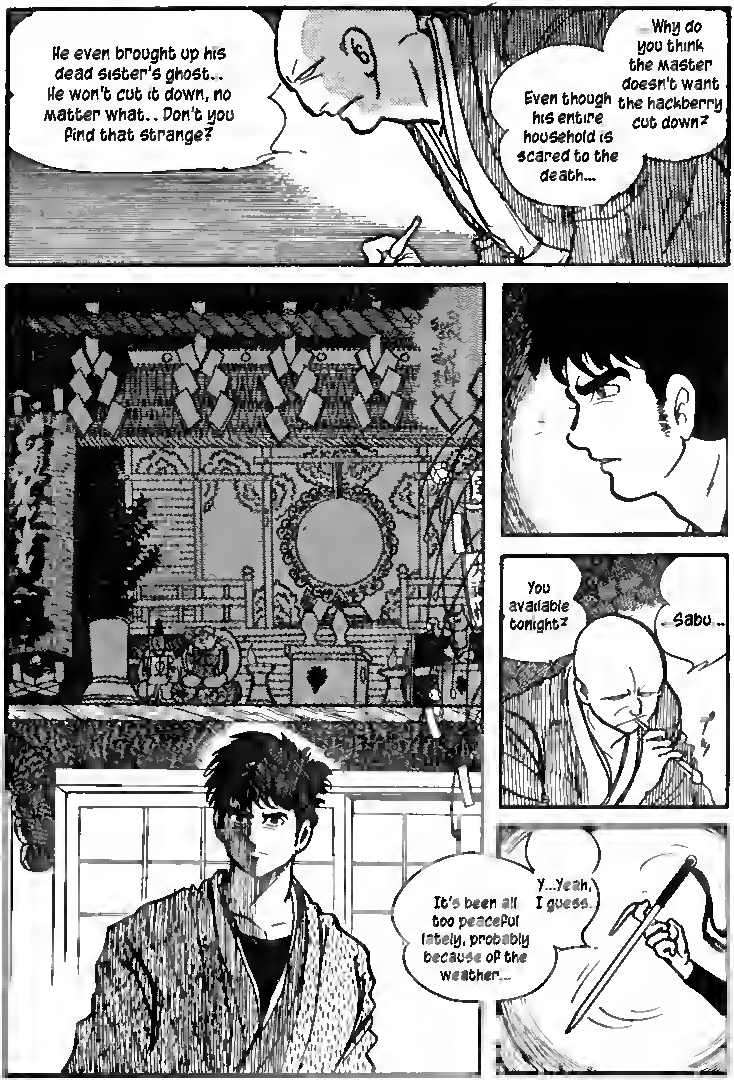
My liking them proves that I'm not a coward!
...So, I finished up...
And as I was coming home... I tricked one of the maids into telling me what I want to know...
...I should've known...
Those of us living in the mansion are so terrified, we want to run away as quick as we can...!
...The mistress is so worried... that she went to receive divination from an exorcist...
.....
...Does the hackberry in the backyard really cry every night?
Huh? H-How did you know that, masseur...?
Hehe, oh, nothing.
It's become a pretty big rumor in these parts...

Therefore, the hackberry is to be cut down, so that not a root remains.
In other words, the North-east is the direction most shadowed, and where spirits gather at the end of the year. It is the place where death is culminated and life is fixed. Thus, defiling this direction is a barrier to life and death, and becomes a demon gate.
He detested the hackberry for being placed in the direction of the Ox and Tiger (North-east).
But the master was strongly against this... and he said he would not cut it down no matter what.


She cried and pleaded with him...
saying that the exorcist's words were nonsense, and the hackberry was not to be cut down...
...his dead sister's spirit appeared in his dream...

Oh, but why?

Whoa, whoa...
I'm scared!
I got it!
...It must be because they can latch onto their beloved's neck!!
...This is why women love ghost stories!
G-Got what...!?
...Sabu...!
there's still a long way until summer...!
But Ichi,
Good grief, I know that winter's finally almost over.
That's ridiculous!!

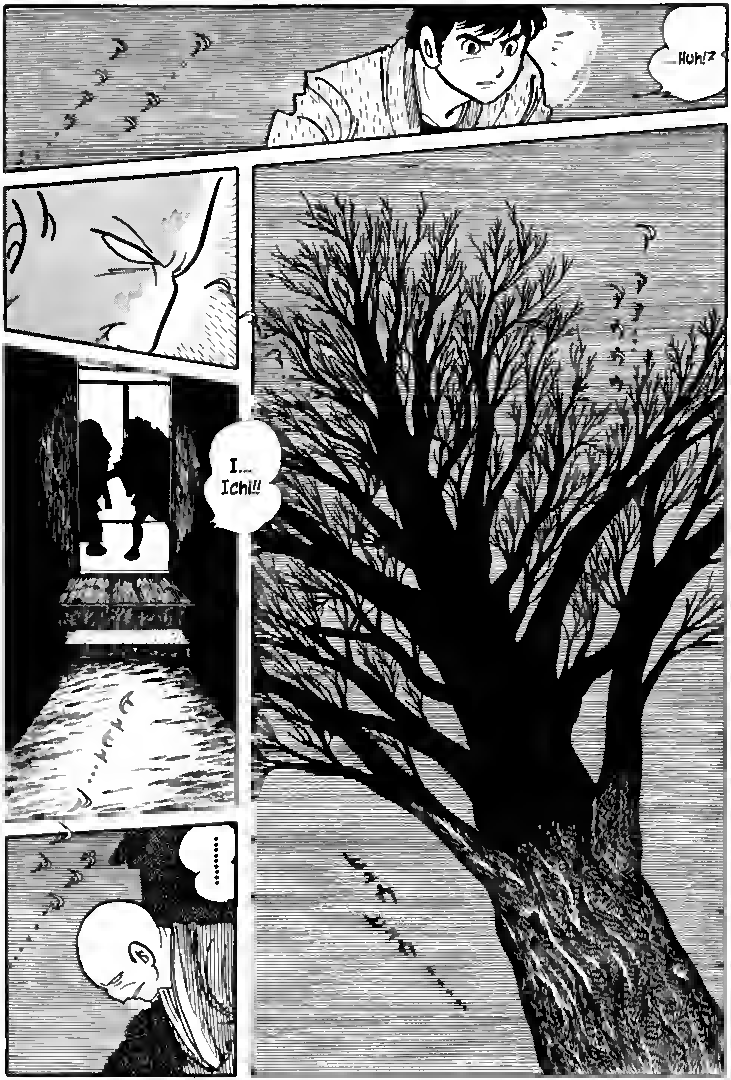

He even brought up his dead sister's ghost.. He won't cut it down, no matter what.. Don't you find that strange?
Why do you think the master doesn't want the hackberry cut down?
Even though his entire household is scared to the death...
You available tonight?
Gabu..
It's been all too peaceful lately, probably because of the weather...
Y...Yeah, I guess.

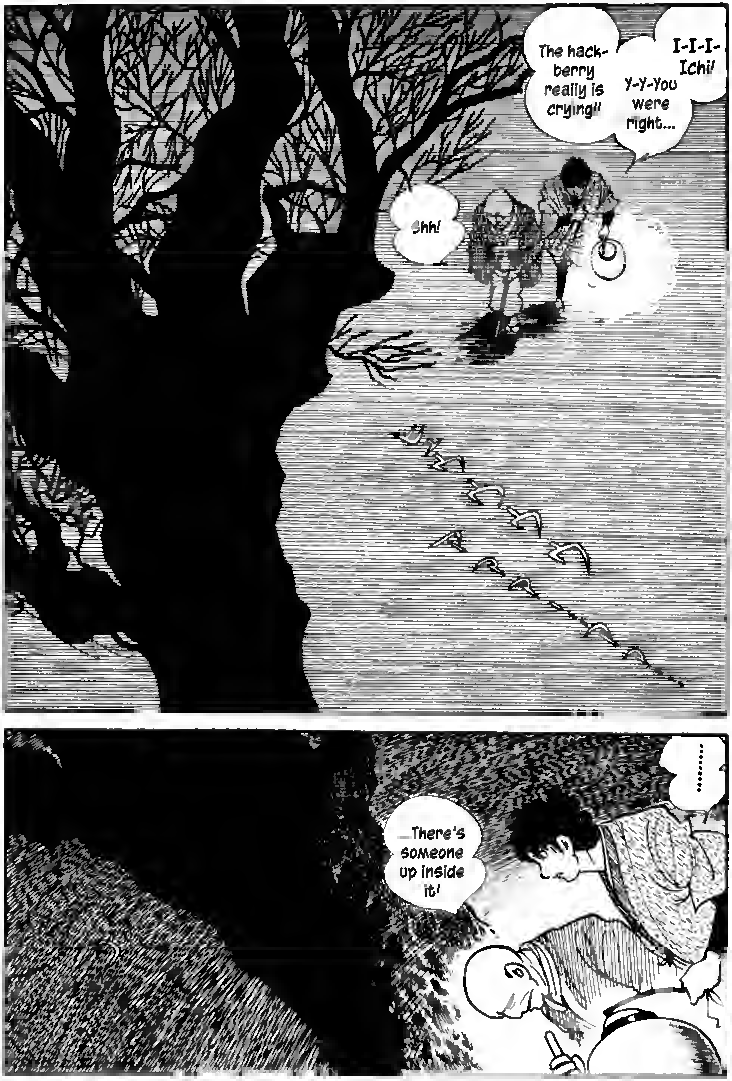
MT. MATSUCHI SHOTEN TEMPLE, HUNDRED TIMES WORSHIP AND PURIFICATION
T-That is entirely absurd!!
Sim-ple-ton!!
You mere townsman and mas-seur have no right to...

Please, wait!!
Huh ...!?
...Unacceptable!!
Go home, go home!!
Y-You're still...?
then I ask you to let them.
...If these people are here to investigate the cause of the crying hackberry...
Are you saying we should listen to those cries forever!?
First it cannot be cut down. Now it cannot be investigated.
I cannot bear this any longer!!

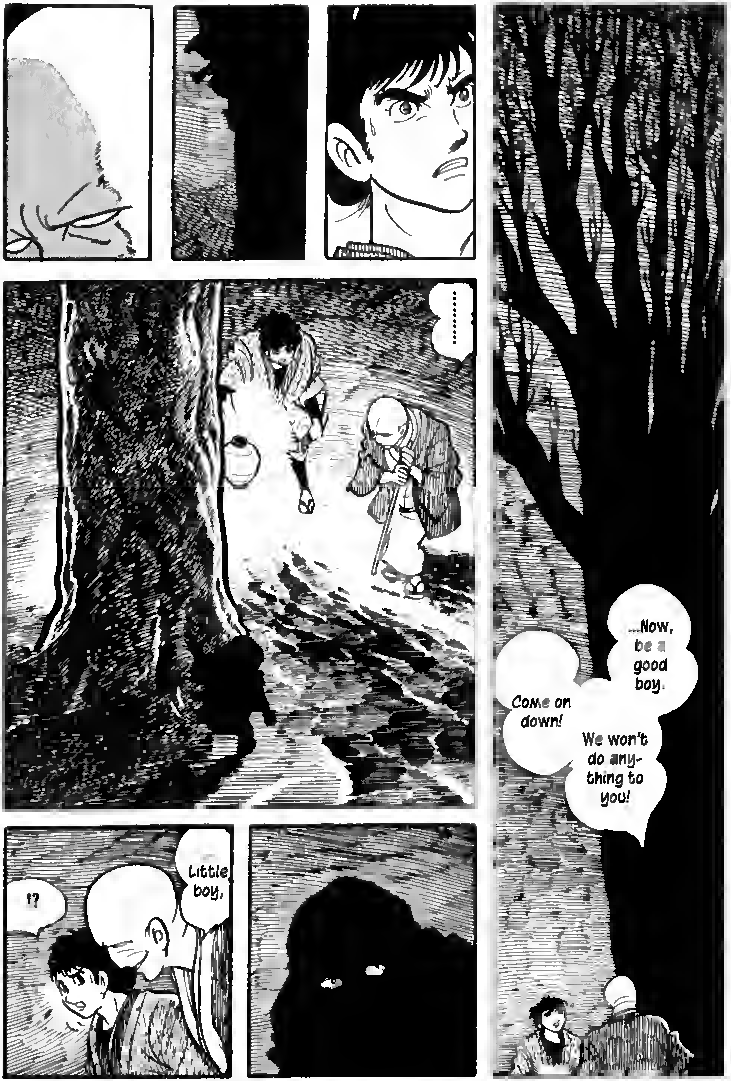
I-If so,
t-then I will have to return to my hometown!
Sob Sob...
H..Have it your way!
...The moon's finally risen.

Hehhe... So, pick up any scents?
You were so late... I thought you'd run away in fear.
Hey, Sabu.
Kch, that's just ridiculous.
I've been sniffing around there till the sun set!
No...
Not yet, but I did learn the reason
why that Mistress is so strong... or strong-willed, I should say.
That's why she's always nagging...
married into this half-crumbling mansion,
taking the burden of its framework...!
...That woman...


Huh!?
I...
Ichi!!
.....


I-I-I-Ichi!
Y-Y-You were right...
The hackberry really is crying!!
Shh!
Uncanny
.....
...There's someone up inside it!

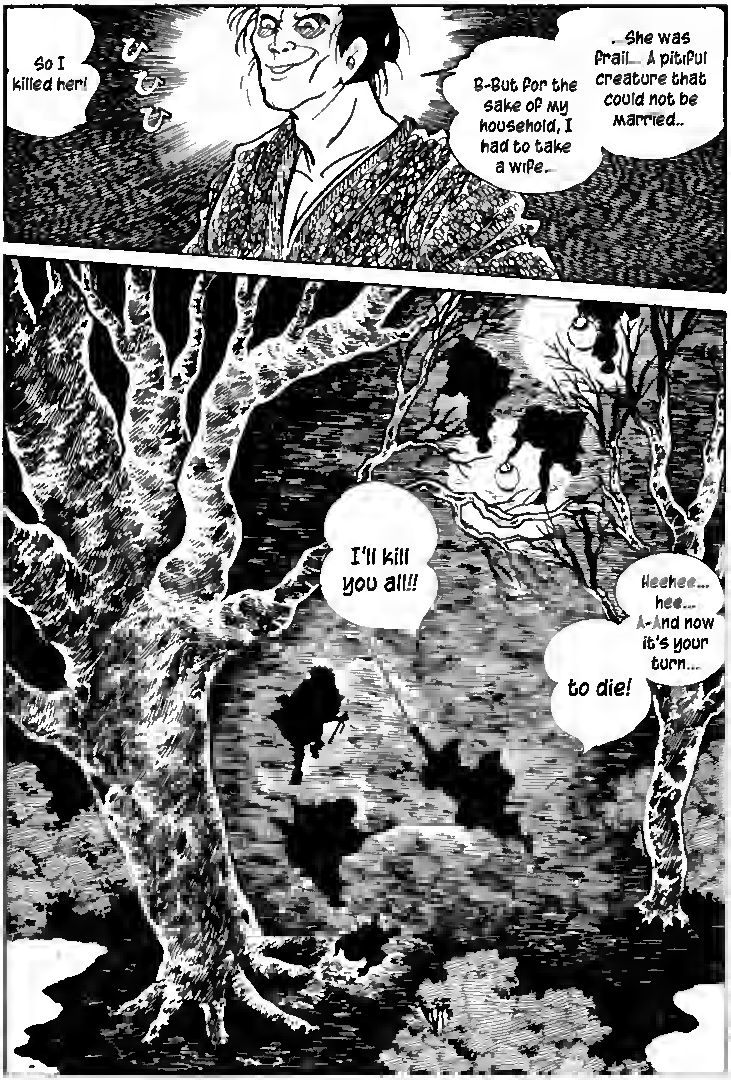
Who ... is up there!?
Who's there!?
I can "see" it.
There's someone in the tree... crying!!
Huh!?
Y...You don't mean... But I can't see a thing up there...!
I-If there's someone up there come down at once! H-How dare you pull this mischief!!
Y-You bastard!
...Now, come down!
We know you're up there...
...Don't bother hiding
Huh!?
...You may not be able to tell... but those cries... belong to a child!!
Shhh!
Don't threaten him, Sabu!

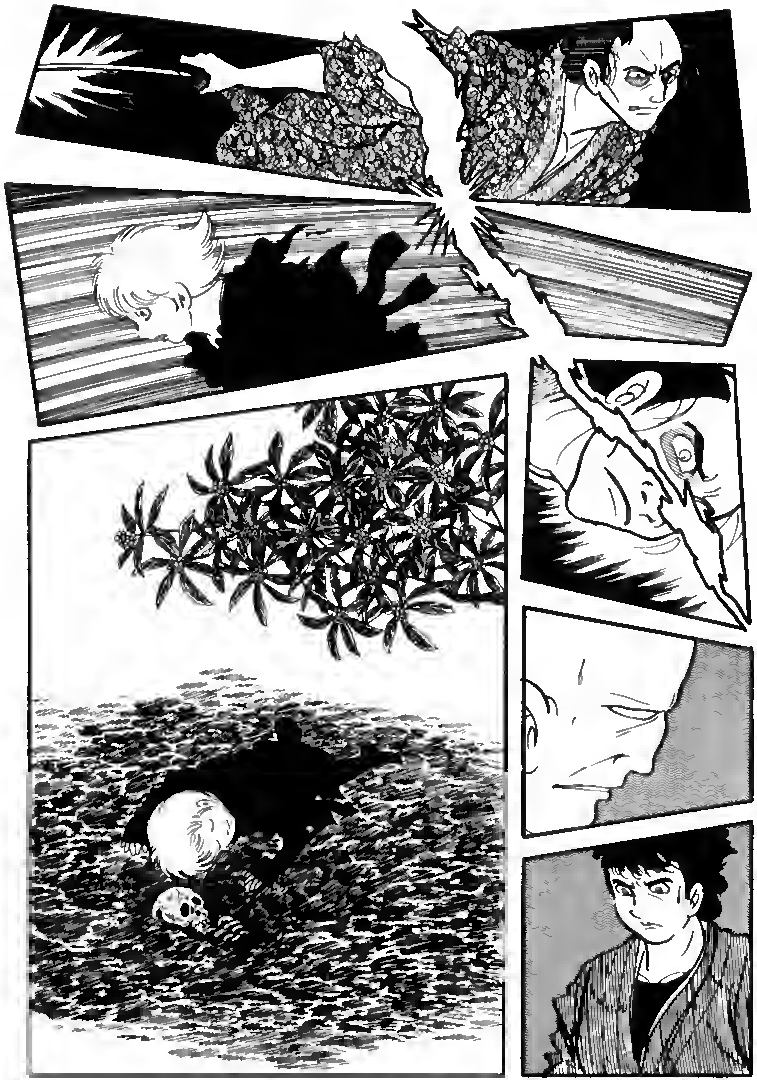

.....
...Now, be a good boy.
Come on down!
We won't do anything to you!
Little boy,
!?

……
Why are you so sad!?
Why did you climb the tree and cry!?
Why did you do this?
A girl couldn't have climbed this tree… Right, my boy?
It's dressed in black from head to toe!
H-How can you be so sure it's a boy!?
Ichi!
Urk…
H-He's digging up the hackberry's roots!?

ウウウ…アーソコ
...And I should have...
done the same to you when you were born!
When did you figure out how to escape from your cell?
Eek!!

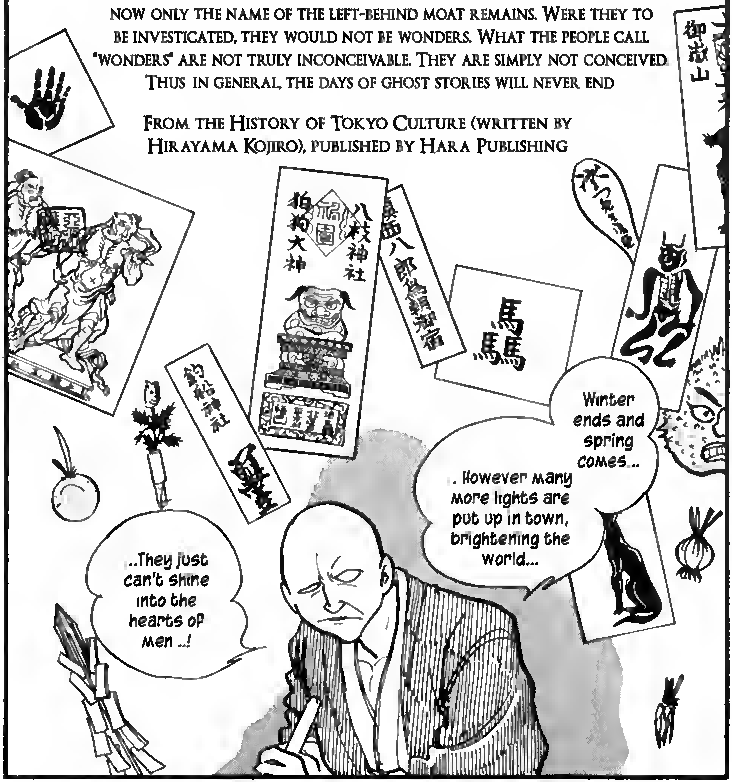
What are you doing!?
W... Who is this!?
Hee... hee-hee...
T-That Monster... is mine and my sister's child!
Just like our second child buried there!
That's why I killed it and buried it by the hackberry's roots!!
That monster must have snuck out of its cell... and seen me kill it!!
And kill my sister!!

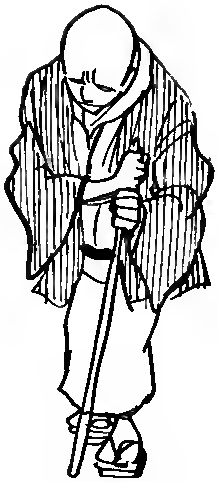

So I killed her!
ひひひ
B-But for the sake of my household, I had to take a wife..
..She was frail... A pitiful creature that could not be married..
I'll kill you all!!
Heehee... hee... A-And now it's your turn...
to die!



Since ancient times, there are seven wonders, and just as with doubled flowers, this is almost always a fixed number. And so there are seven wonders of ancient Azabu The first is the fallen gingko in Zenpuku Temple, the second is the lone pine, the third is the six trees of Roppongi, the fourth is the willow's well, the fifth is the hawk-stone of the Eastern District, the sixth is the Beriberi stone of Nagasaka, and the seventh is the tanuki-soba of Mamiana. No one now has even seen a trace of them. There are also seven wonders in Honjo. The first is the Fool's Drum, the second is the left-behind moat, the third is the reed of the single leaf, the fourth is the foot-basin on the ceiling, the fifth is the two lanterns, and so on for the sixth and seventh, but now only the name of the left-behind moat remains. Were they to be investigated, they would not be wonders. What the people call "wonders" are not truly inconceivable. They are simply not conceived. Thus in general, the days of ghost stories will never end

From the History of Tokyo Culture (written by Hirayama Kojiro), published by Hara Publishing


八枝神社
狛狗大神
馬
馬
Winter ends and spring comes...
...However many more lights are put up in town, brightening the world...
...They just can't shine into the hearts of men ...!



佐武と市捕物控12　屏風の女

小学館文庫

石森章太郎
昭和13年1月25日、宮城県登米郡に生まれる。
昭和30年「二級天使」でデビュー。昭和41年度講談社児童まんが賞、同43年度小学館漫画賞受賞。
代表作「サイボーグ009」「佐武と市捕物控」「ジュン」他。

（検印廃止）

昭和53年5月20日　初版第1刷発行

著　者　石森章太郎
©Shōtarō Ishimori　1978
発行者　相賀　徹夫
発行所　株式会社　小学館
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2－3－1
〔郵便番号〕101〔振替〕東京8－200
〔電話〕販売　東京（03）230－5739
編集　東京（03）230－5481
製作　東京（03）230－5333
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

★落丁、乱丁がありましたら、おとりかえいたします。　Printed in Japan
★定価は、カバーに表示してあります。

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 76
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO